2 senior policemen linked to kidnap gang sacked

STORY ON PAGE A2

Smarter, luckier NGO?

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE CAUCUS of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) is simply smarter and luckier than the others for earning a windfall of P1.4 billion without forking out its own

SMARTER/A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Solons cautioned on impeach bids

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine Avendaño

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno yesterday downplayed the impact of lawyer Ernesto Francisco's statements attacking Speaker Jose de Venecia on the two impeachment complaints

SOLONS/A19

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Monday, February 11, 2002 ★ 84 pages / 7 sections / vol.17 / no. 65 / P15 | website: www.inq7.net

Poll backs GMA stance

Sentiment 'strong' for US support

By Carlito Pablo

DESPITE criticisms from all sectors, even administration senators, Malacañang is hanging tough on President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to draw a line in the sand between supporters and critics of the RP-US Balikatan war exercises.

One possible reason: a leading pollster said there was "strong sentiment" from the public for American support in the war on Abu Sayyaf bandits.

In a strong declaration on Friday, the President branded critics of the American deployment as "terrorist lovers" and accomplices of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang.

Addressing government employees, she said anyone opposing the US presence was "a protector of terrorists, a business partner of murderers, an Abu Sayyaf lover."

On Saturday, Sen. Joker Arroyo blasted Ms Macapagal, saying she had outdone the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in calling her critics un-Filipino.

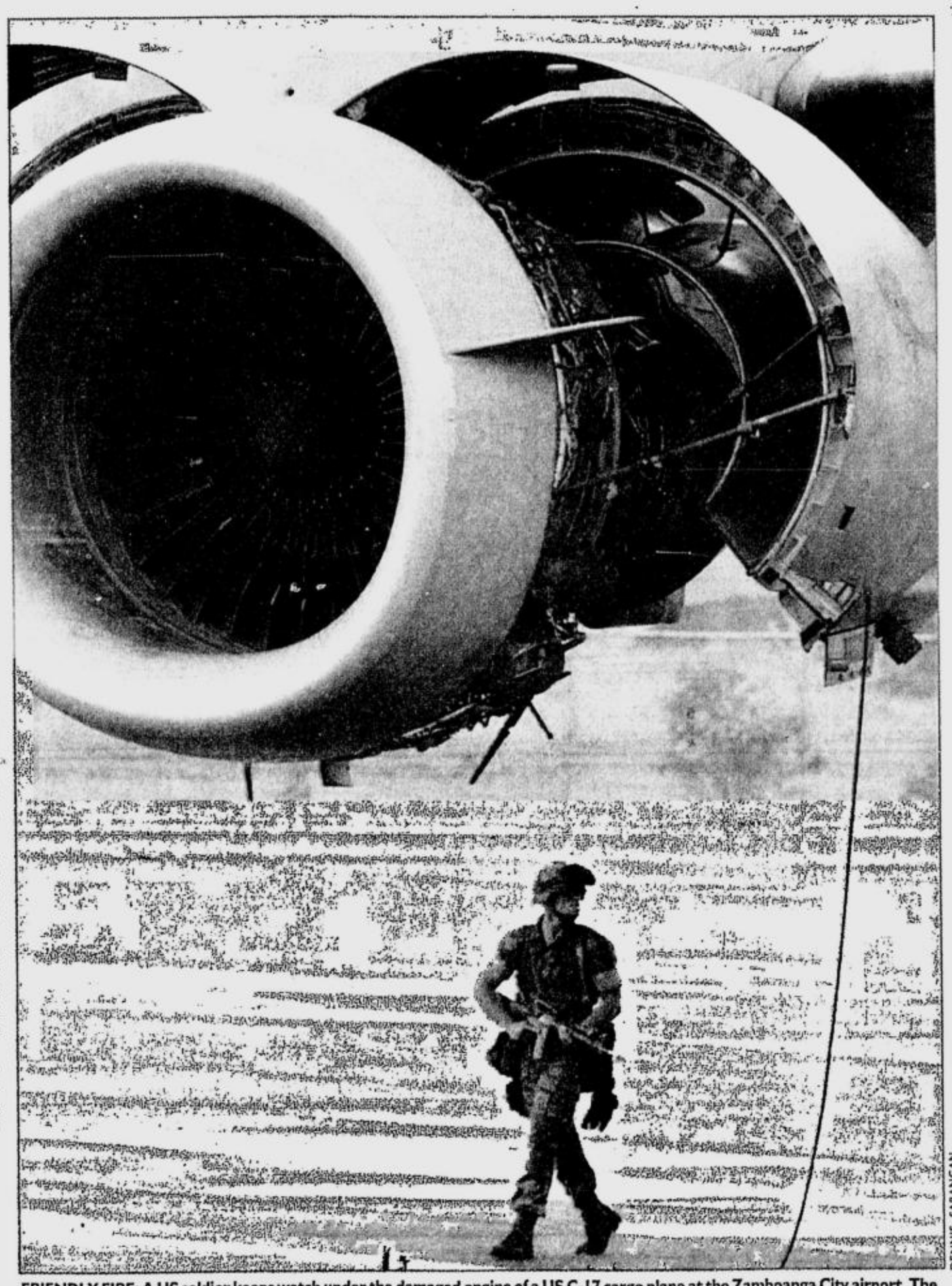
Did the President go overboard with her declaration? "Not really," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

"The President was simply emphasizing that the basic issue here is: Are we willing to get foreign help to help us wipe out the Abu Sayyaf or not?" he said.

Felipe Miranda, political scientist and research director of the Pulse Asia polling and research firm, said Ms Macapagal "might make collaboration with the United States as the acid test of her (performance) as a leader."

While the opposition and leftist protesters have tried to raise the US presence as a political issue against the

POLL/A17



DENNIS SABANGAN

FRIENDLY FIRE: A US soldier keeps watch under the damaged engine of a US C-17 cargo plane at the Zamboanga City airport. The aircraft stayed on the tarmac through the night after one of its engines burst into flames while negotiating the runway.

PSE plans longer stock trading hours

BUOYED by fresh investor confidence, the Philippine Stock Exchange is seeking to extend share trading hours and relax operating procedures for foreign stockbrokerages in a bid to woo back portfolio funds.

The Manila stock market has emerged as a top performer this year, with foreign funds returning on the back of positive economic indicators and stabilizing security.

To cash in on the newfound confidence, the PSE wants to extend trading hours from next week, according to officials.

Trading at the exchange currently starts at 9:30 a.m. and ends at noon, making the local bourse one of the few remaining markets in the world that operate half day.

Under a proposal approved by a PSE panel recently, trading will resume from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. after a one-hour break starting Feb. 18.

"The global situation has been recovering and even our internal situation is improving. For that reason, the timing of the extending of hours may be propitious," PSE president Ernest Leung said.

He expects the PSE board to approve the plan on Wednesday.

Finance Secretary Jose Camacho, who has given the thumbs-up to extending trading hours, said turnover on the PSE had increased "four times" in both volume and value.

"We always talk about world-class and how can we be world-class when

PSE/A17

POEA lists Ten Commandments for job seekers

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE HEAD of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has decided to play "labor god" with the release of its version of "Ten Commandments" to guide overseas job applicants to the promised land.

The Ten Commandments that POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz has issued calls on applicants to watch out for illegal recruiters preying on naïve and young workers seeking jobs abroad.

As in God's second commandment, no one shall use the name of the POEA, sole source of recruitment licenses in the country, in vain, according to Baldoz.

She said the applicant should check whether the recruitment firm is included in the POEA's list of licensed recruiters.

The list is available in the POEA's website, www.poea.gov.ph and in publications freely distributed to people dealing with the POEA office. Thirty recruitment firms have so far been suspended for violating POEA rules.

If the agency is on the list, prospective overseas Filipino workers should

POEA/A20

Gloria remark on criticisms vintage Erap

By Amando Doronila

IN an effort to stampede public opinion into accepting the deployment of US troops in the war on transnational terrorist networks associated with the al-Qaida, President Macapagal-Arroyo has reduced the conflict into the simplistic formula of if you are not for the involvement of the Americans "you are not a Filipino."

ANALYSIS

She has played the patriotic card that brands as unpatriotic and un-Filipino the opponents of the joint RP-US military exercise (Balikatan 02-1). At a press conference last week, she said: "If you are not a Filipino, then who are you? A protector of terrorists, a cohort of murderers, an Abu Sayyaf lover.

"You care more for terrorists than for your own soldiers who defend you. You care more for bandits and the camp of Osama bin Laden than your country, which seeks to help you."

In making the pitch, the President is not even being original, let alone nuanced in her conception of foreign policy.

She echoes the jingoistic rhetoric of US President George W. Bush. In his address to the joint session of Congress in September, Bush warned US allies as well as those wavering in their support for the US-led coalition in the war on terrorism that "either you are with us or you are not with us."

The reduction of the war on the Abu

GLORIA/A17

Gov't troops kill Abu 'spy' in Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government troops killed a man believed to be a "spy" for the Abu Sayyaf bandits, who are holding an American couple and a Filipino hostage, the military yesterday said.

The killing occurred as government forces increased security in the southern Philippines amid warnings that foreign journalists covering the US-Philippine military action against the bandits there could also be abducted.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the military's Southern Command, said government troops approached the suspected spy, Rommel Villamor, alias Faisal, on Saturday in Basilan, triggering a brief firefight in which he was killed.

Servando said the suspect was a scout for the Abu Sayyaf and was involved in the kidnapping last year of a group of farmers from a remote village in Lamitan town.

Ten of those snatched were beheaded while about 14 others, most of them children, were released a week later.

Abu Sayyaf gunmen are still holding US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Edeborah Yap in Basilan.

Both the US and Philippine governments have linked the group to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in Washington and New York.

Last month, both governments launched joint exercises aimed at helping the Philippine soldiers crush the Abu Sayyaf.

While officials claim that US troops will not actively engage in combat, they will be allowed to go to the frontline and could fire back if attacked.

Dozens of foreign journalists have flocked to Zamboanga City to cover the

GOV'T/ A17

Bags tell tales of Smokey Mountain

By Blanche S. Rivera

A BLUE handbag stands pretty inside the God's Kraft booth at the Glorietta in Makati City. It's almost like a hundred other bags being sold at the mall, except that when somebody buys it, 15-year-old Archie Amago can go to school this year.

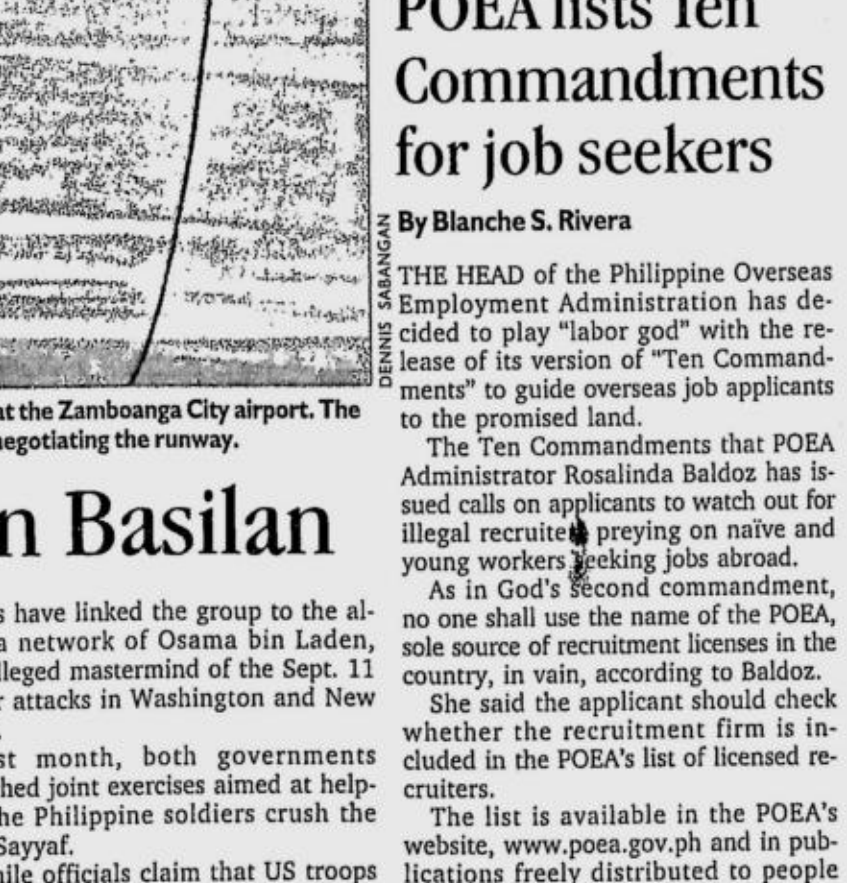
Each bag in that extraordinary stall tells the story of young boys and girls wanting to finish their studies, of mothers trying to feed their children, or of simply the daily survival of people in Smokey Mountain who refuse to be buried under mountains of trash.

The make of the bags, a weaving from newspapers and directories, speaks as well of a group's crusade to save the environment, however ambitious it sounds in this country of careless waste producers.

The GK bags and other novelty items, which are produced in a livelihood center at the Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila, are distributed nationwide and will soon arrive in the United States and Europe.

The environment-friendly products

BAGS/A20



A MEMBER of a livelihood center in Smokey Mountain run by Fr. Ben Beltran works on bags made from recycled paper.

ERIK ARAZAS

Second FRONT PAGE

2 senior cops tied to kidnaps sacked

By Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Two ranking police officers with alleged links to the kidnap-for-ransom Pentagon gang have been relieved of their respective posts in Central Mindanao.

In addition, administrative and criminal charges have been filed against Senior Supt. Willie Dangane and Supt. Efren Alcuizar following the sworn statements of three arrested kidnapping suspects who tagged the two officers as their protectors.

Dangane and Alcuizar have been restricted to Philippine National Police headquarters at Camp Crame, Quezon City, pending investigation of the charges against them, according to Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, police chief for Southern Mindanao, who filed the charges.

"The relief order effecting the transfer of Dangane and Alcuizar to Camp Crame was issued last week," Matillano said.

Dangane was operations chief of Task Force Sanlahi-Pentagon, while Alcuizar was head of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office in Central Mindanao and was a member of the task force.

The task force was created mainly to run after the Pentagon gang but some of its officers allegedly turned to kidnapping themselves.

Kidnap suspects Jerry Saligan, Grace Dulay and Salim Mama said in their affidavits that Dangane was asked by their gang leader Faisal Marohombsar to be their "protector."

The gang members said they saw Dangane and Marohombsar deep in conversation in their hideout in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat.

Matillano said Alcuizar was seen in Barangay Kleb in Hagonoy town, Davao del Sur, where recent kidnap victim Maria Cecilia Bonifacio was rescued from her abductors.

The two police officers reportedly played a role in the abduction of Bonifacio, a daughter of the owner of Davao Bonifacio Motors Corp., and Canadian Pierre Belanger, a resident of Hagonoy, Davao del Sur.

Belanger was released last month although it was not known if ransom was paid for him by his family, some of whom live in other parts of Mindanao.

The Pentagon gang has rivaled the more established Abu Sayyaf group in its kidnapping activities, although the latter has had more victims and has collected more in ransom payments.

Both gangs have been linked to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, with the Abu Sayyaf also being tied to the al-Qaida international terrorist network of Osama bin Laden.

The MILF, however, has repeatedly denied connections to either group.

In General Santos City, the kidnappers of a Korean national and his Filipino business partner have sent authorities a letter saying they are willing to negotiate for the safe release of the hostages if the government calls off its manhunt for them.

In the letter to Mayor Labualas Mamansual of Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, the kidnappers, who claimed to be the Abu Suffia gang, told the police and military to cease rescue operations before negotiations could begin.

The letter, written in Maguindanaoan, was signed by the alleged leader of the group, Mudammirol Omar, alias Commander Tropical.

Omar said there would be no talks for the safe release of Jae Keon Yoon and Carlos Belonio, owner of the Tierra Verde Hotel here, until the Armed Forces stop rescue operations.

The group did not say in the letter if they were asking for ransom. Authorities said they doubted the existence of the Abu Suffia gang, which might be a faction of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Col. Pedrito Magsino, 601st Army Brigade chief, and Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police chief, refused to stop recovery operations and on Sunday even stepped up their hunt for the kidnappers.

"We want to put constant pressure on them until they release their victims," Magsino said.

All possible exit routes of the bandits, both in the hinterlands and in the coastal areas, have been sealed off by the police and the military. ***With a report from Aquiles Z. Zonio PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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AGONY FOR 'ECSTACY'

Death planned for 'designer' drug

By Rocky Nazareno

ECSTACY, the "designer" drug favored by the rich, will soon bring nothing but misery to its users.

That's because the expensive drug has been included in the list of banned substances whose possession will be punishable by life imprisonment and even death, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

In a statement, Drilon said the Senate is rushing approval of an amended version of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972 that would include Ecstacy on the list of banned substances whose possession will be considered a capital offense.

The proposed Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 also lists Ecstasy in its generic names—pharametoux amphetamine, trimethoxy amphetamine, lysergio acid diethylamine and gamma hydroixe buterate.

The new act was sponsored on the floor by Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs.

Under the new law, Drilon said, conviction for possession of a mere 10 grams of Ecstacy would result in a penalty of either life imprisonment or death.

Drilon noted three other features of the new law, aside from its recognition of Ecstacy as an illegal drug:

- It will create a Presidential Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) to strengthen the government's campaign against illegal drugs.
- The quantity of illegal drugs seized that would make one eligible for the death penalty has been substantially reduced.
- The law mandates the destruction of illegal drugs within 24 hours of seizure to prevent their re-distribution.

"This provision was included to ensure that the illegal drugs do not fall into the wrong hands given the inadequate facilities of the government to store them securely," Drilon said.

He noted that there have been cases of seized drugs getting lost or being stolen by police themselves.

Under the new law, possession of at least 99 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu shall be considered a capital offense compared to the present law which provides for possession of at least 200 grams.

The prescribed parameters for possession of other banned drugs like opium, heroin, cocaine, morphine and marijuana has also been substantially reduced, Drilon said.

Ecstasy is a chemical drug that induces a euphoric high that could last for days. Its effects on the mind and body, however, could lead to paranoia, a mental breakdown and ravaged internal organs.

Korean expat leads move to aid tourists

By Rocky Nazareno

EVER wonder why there is no public assistance center for tourists in Malate and Intramuros, the areas most frequented by visiting foreigners?

Korean expatriate Ko Jae-hwan did when he first arrived in the country six years ago and he has finally realized his dream of putting up tourist information centers around the Malate area.

The first TIC, a nonprofit facility staffed by volunteers, will be located in the heart of Malate, on Mabini Street, right beside Ko's office, the Koreatech Corp., an import-export information technology consultancy firm.

"That way, I can shuttle easily back and forth between my real job and my volunteer work," he said.

Initially, it will be manned by Ko and some of his Korean employees but will be expanded to include Japanese, Malaysian, Indonesian and other foreign volunteers.

"We will be available to assist (tourists) with almost anything, from directions to complaints," said Ko.

He stressed that assistance would not be limited to Koreans just because they are the ones initially manning the center.

"We already have a list of volunteers of other nationalities who will be available to assist their own compatriots," Ko said.

For instance, if a Brazilian were to ask for directions and the Korean volunteer does not know what the tourist needs, the volunteer will put him through by phone to the TIC's Brazilian volunteer.

Ko will be inaugurating the Mabini TIC next week with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon as guest of honor.

There are plans to put up other TICs along M.H. del Pilar and Adriatico streets, both in Malate.

With this tie-up with the tourism department, Ko said the TIC would have easy access to brochures and promotional materials on the country's tourist spots.

He said the primary problem faced by tourists visiting the Philippines was the lack of "tourist-friendly" maps which are easily available in other Asian destinations like Japan and Hong Kong.

"I would often be asked by Korean tourists for the location of a place they want to go to. Some may have the maps all right but these are in English, so I have to translate for them. I just feel that, with a TIC, there would be a facility that would be available to assist them," Ko said.

Ko thought of putting up the TICs when one of his countrymen was robbed and sought his help.

"I had to take him to the police station and stay with him. I thought that if there had been a TIC, the center could just call the police which would then coordinate with the TIC to assist the victim," he said.

Ko then approached the DOT and asked permission to put up the TICs.

The DOT-National Capital Region has given Ko the go-signal to put up the TICs. The Korean is now even seeking foreign funding for the purchase of from four to five vans to serve as mobile TICs.

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Most MNLF combatants want peace

By Blanche S. Rivera

MOST Moro National Liberation Front combatants just want to live peacefully, away from the fighting and near their families, said MNLF vice chair Hatimil Hassan.

At a time when the loyalty of some of the more extremist of the MNLF members continues to worry government, Hassan said the battle-hardened guerrillas desire nothing more than peace and a second chance at a normal life.

Many former MNLF fighters, like 50-year-old Omar Alanan who has spent half of his life as a rebel, have successfully made the transition to life as a farmer quietly tending a plot of land with his family.

Alanan was one of 13,000 MNLF guerrillas who underwent training and were given seeds of a high-yielding corn variety in a pilot USAID program in 1997.

After being taught farming and marketing techniques and the basics of forming a cooperative, Alanan has done wonders with his small farm in General Santos City.

Instead of roaming the mountains, the former guerrilla now goes malling with his family.

With a $5-million grant from the USAID to finance the livelihood enhancement and peace program (LEAP), the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao will be seeing more success stories like Alanan's, Hassan said.

A memorandum of understanding for the LEAP was signed last Wednesday by ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin, Hassan, presidential advisers on Mindanao Jesus Dureza and Paul Dominguez, US charges d' affaires Robert Fitts and USAID representatives.

The LEAP program is a direct result of President Macapagal-Arroyo's trip to Washington last year during which the US government pledged a "rapid and substantial increase in assistance for Mindanao."

"The United States and the Philippines have a long and distinguished history of working together in times of peace and in times of war," Fitts said in his speech.

"As we enter the 21st century, we find ourselves close partners both in the war on terrorism and in the war on poverty in the Philippines," he said.

About 660 US troops are now in Basilan in a controversial "Balikatan" joint training exercise with the Armed Forces that is expected to last for six months.

The LEAP program actually merged two previous livelihood programs that benefited at least 13,000 MNLF fighters and 350 MNLF communities in the ARMM, and Central and Western Mindanao.

Under LEAP, some 1,500 retired MNLF combatants would be given seeds of readily marketable crops like corn and rice, as well as fertilizers.

The ex-guerrillas may also cultivate seaweed and engage in aquaculture if their areas can sustain such activities. The program will also provide rafts, fish cages and netting materials.

"This is a very encouraging sign of support," Hussin told the US government representatives.

"Despite the dismal performance of the past ARMM administration, we were given another opportunity to govern ourselves," he said.

The USAID's Patricia Buckles said the LEAP, which will last for 30 months, would also be extended to former members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front as soon as the government and the MILF conclude a peace agreement.

Buckles urged the ARMM officials to "exercise transparency in their budget and reduce red tape and corruption to enhance the business environment" in the region.

The first 200 MNLF fighters will be chosen this week to start on their livelihood project. More will be identified by the end of the month and as resources become available.

Hussin and vice governor Mahid Mutilan won the ARMM elections last November as government candidates.

The former governor and ex-MNLF chair, Nur Misuari, who allegedly tried to stop the elections by encouraging his supporters to attack military camps, is now detained in Laguna on charges of rebellion.

"We have a very, very daunting task ahead of us," Hussin said. "This support from the international community is very encouraging."

UPLB scientists develop papayas with longer shelf life

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

COMING soon: papayas out of season and chemical-free.

Scientists at the Institute of Plant Breeding at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna, are developing a papaya variety that would last longer on the shelf.

Dr. Evelyn Mae Mendoza, leader of the "Molecular Strategy to Develop Long Shelf-life Papaya by Genetic Engineering" project, said the trees already growing in a biological containment level 2 (BL2) screen house are currently being evaluated and will bear their first fruits this year.

"It's just a matter of time before consumers could get a taste of papayas with a longer shelf life but without the addition of chemicals or refrigeration.

Ripening of the papaya is delayed by genetic manipulation through the suppression or inhibition of the key enzyme, ACC synthase, in ethylene production during the ripening process. Ethylene is a natural chemical produced by fruits that enhances ripening.

The project aims to improve the post-harvest qualities of the papaya with a longer shelf life, thus minimizing post-harvest losses and increasing its export potential.

The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCCARD) said that with a longer post-harvest life, local papayas could be exported to Japan, Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates and other Middle East countries.

The project is funded by PCCARD, along with the Department of Science and Technology and the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research.

The project won the 2001 Outstanding R&D Award given by the Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development.

The project team is also working with Dr. Ramon Botella of the Plant Engineering Laboratory, Department of Botany, University of Queensland in Australia.

'Sinister forces' out to derail talks on Naia 3

A MEMBER of a coalition of unions and non-government organizations opposed to the Terminal 3 airport project has denounced "sinister forces" for trying to derail a planned symposium to deal with their concerns about the loss of jobs when the new terminal opens late this year.

Felicisimo Carullo, president of the National Federation of Labor (NFLO), disowned a press statement by a group calling itself the Scrap Piatco Deal Coalition (Scrap) accusing the latter of "duplicity" in its dealings.

"We gave our word to (Transportation Secretary Pantaleon) Alvarez to seek a solution to our various concerns related to the Naia Terminal 3 operations. But insincere and sinister forces behind the coalition are pressuring the group to concentrate on blocking Alvarez's appointment instead," Carullo said in a press statement yesterday.

The Carullo statement was faxed to the INQUIRER yesterday by a group calling itself the Malayang Kilusan ng Samahang Manggagawa (Makisama).

The Scrap's statement, which was reported in the INQUIRER the other day, accused Alvarez of using the proposed symposium to pursue his confirmation.

Makisama said Alvarez had proposed the symposium to be attended by representatives from the labor and tourism departments, Piatco, the Terminal 3 operator, and the protesting groups.

Carullo accused "sinister forces" of trying to derail the proposed symposium which he said could have solved the workers' concerns once and for all.

"They are not really bent on solving the problem but are now appearing to identify themselves with the selfish cause of their employers," Carullo said.

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Eye operation 'successful,' says Estrada

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada was allowed to leave detention yesterday for minor surgery to remove a cataract on his right eye, officials said.

Estrada was brought to the Asian Eye Institute in Makati City under heavy guard early Sunday and left about four hours later, his doctors said.

The operation took only 20 minutes, but Estrada had to rest before being returned to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, where he is detained while being tried for massive corruption.

"The operation was very successful again," Estrada, wearing dark glasses, told reporters as he emerged from the clinic located at the Rockwell Complex.

Estrada in December had a cataract removed from his left eye. He also has a pending petition to be allowed to undergo a knee operation in the United States.

Estrada was toppled by a military-backed popular uprising in January last year amid a mounting corruption scandal. He denies the accusation but could theoretically face the death penalty if convicted. ***AFP***

He's no terrorist, says family of Malaysian arrested at Naia

KUALA LUMPUR—The family of a Malaysian man arrested in the Philippines with 104 passports has pleaded for his release, saying he has no ties to any terrorist groups.

Azmi Salleh, who was detained at Manila international airport on Friday, runs a travel agency that helps Malaysians obtain visas to perform the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, Azmi's relatives were quoted as saying by the Sunday Star and New Sunday Times newspapers.

"He is very shy and quiet, without any political affiliations nor links to the al-Qaida movement," Mat Wahid Ali, Azmi's father-in-law, was quoted as saying at his home in Kuala Terengganu, 445 kilometers east of Kuala Lumpur.

Police arrested Azmi at Ninoy Aquino International Airport as he prepared to board a Kuwait Airlines flight to Kuwait with a stopover in Bangkok. Besides the passports, officials also seized $57,000 in cash.

Philippine officials said Azmi was also carrying a map of Afghanistan and a cell phone with the name Osama bin Laden displayed on the screen, but police had no immediate evidence to link him to the al-Qaida network.

Malaysian officials said they were investigating the case.

"We understand... he was carrying so many passports to get visas," Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was quoted as saying by the New Sunday Times. "That is the story so far, but the police are investigating if there are other things linked to him. ***AP***

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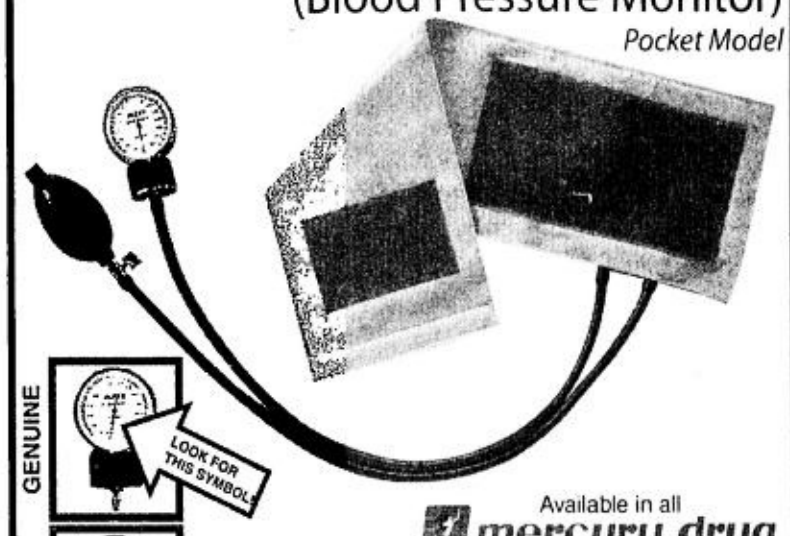

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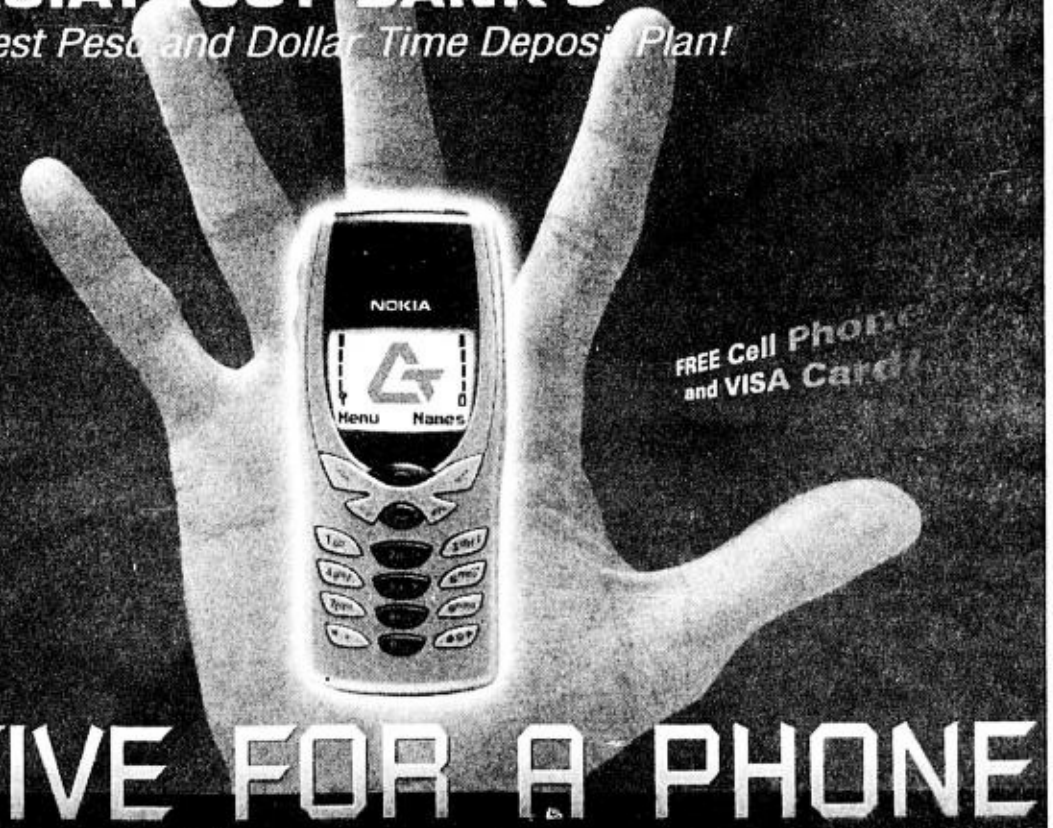

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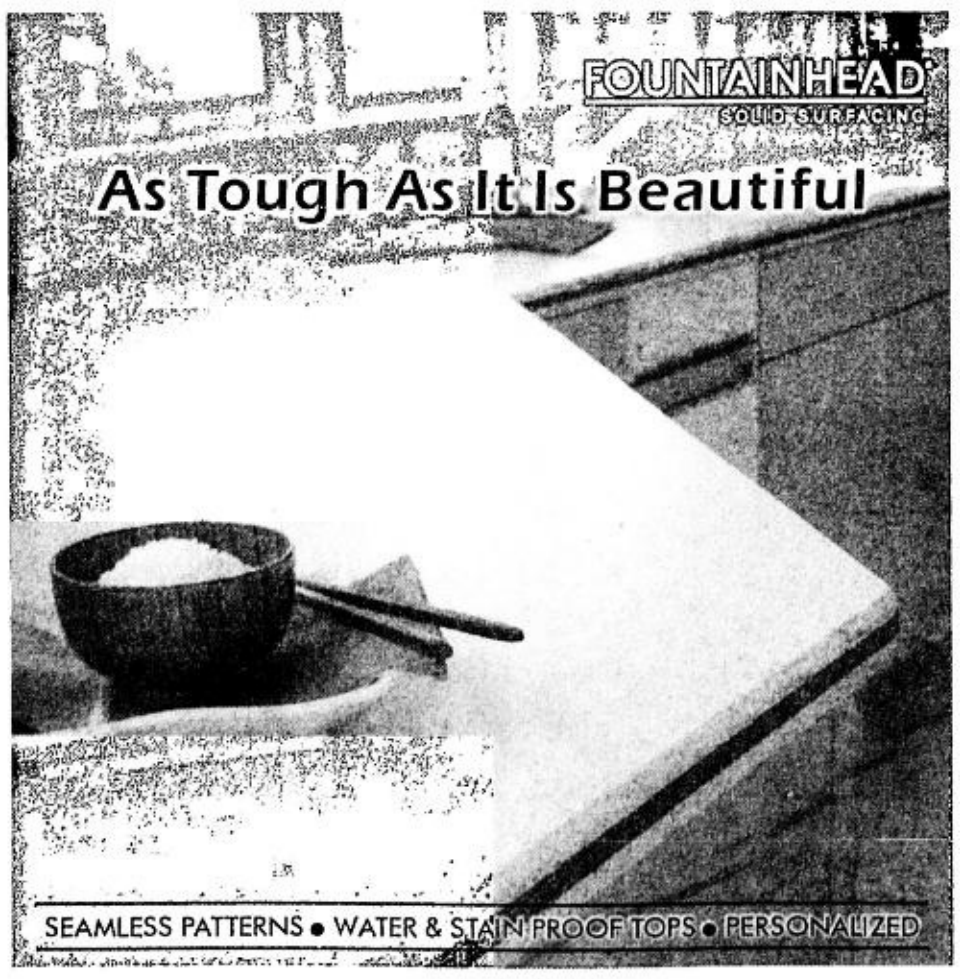

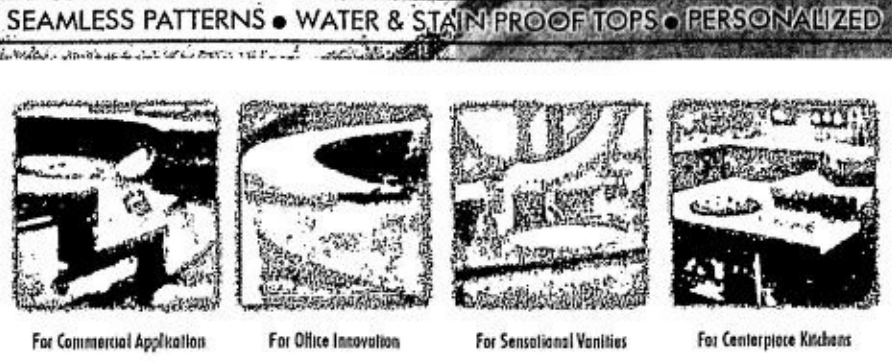

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Drilon assures holding of May 12 barangay polls

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Senate President Franklin Drilon has given an assurance that barangay elections will be held on May 12 amid moves in the House of Representatives to reset them to Nov. 11.

"That is a certainty," Drilon said yesterday.

Drilon, who was in Talisay City for the city's 4th charter anniversary and Pasidungog Festival, said a bill seeking to reset the barangay elections was not likely to pass the Senate.

No such amendatory bill has been calendared for action in the Senate.

The House committees on suffrage and local government last week recommended that the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections be held simultaneously on Nov. 11.

Drilon said the May elections should be allowed to push through as barangay officials were already serving extended terms.

"They were elected in 1997 and have held office for five years for a term of three years. It is about time that they seek a new mandate," Drilon said.

"We cannot keep on extending the terms of our barangay officials, and those who have done well should not worry about not being reelected," he said.

Congress has allocated P1.2 billion in the General Appropriations Act of 2002 for the expenses of barangay elections, the Senate President said.

"The argument that it is expensive should not hold water. We should not place a price tag on our electoral process where people are given the opportunity to vote for their officials who will have to face their constituents for accountability," Drilon said.

The Senate President also stressed that spending money for elections was a necessity in a democratic system of government.

But he said he was for resetting the SK elections as it was the Commission on Elections that had proposed its postponement because of administrative difficulties.

The SK elections, originally set to take place a week before the barangay polls, have been postponed to November or December.

Drilon said holding the barangay and SK elections together would only cause confusion. The SK voters are from 15 to 21 years old while those qualified to vote for barangay elections should not be less than 18 years old.

He said the Comelec, in a recent resolution, had requested Congress that the barangay elections be held as scheduled and the SK elections five or six months later.

Postponing the SK elections would also allow more time for the youth sector to register as the registration in December did not generate that much enthusiasm and support from them, he said.

A special registration for qualified SK voters could be undertaken 100 days before the polls, Drilon said.

Gov't tells bishops: No Reds in Cafgus

By Carlito Pablo

THE GOVERNMENT will not recruit members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army/Alex Boncayao Brigade into the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units, according to Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process.

Ermita made the statement in the face of objections from the Catholic clergy and people's organizations in Negros Island, who are opposing the integration of the RPA/ABB into the Cafgu.

Negros-based Catholic bishops earlier wrote President Macapagal about their opposition to the recruitment, citing alleged abuses by the group, which had previously bolted the mainstream communist movement.

Supposedly with the blessings of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, the RPA/ABB signed a peace pact with the Estrada administration on Dec. 6, 2000.

In an official statement issued by Malacañang, Ermita said the recruitment into the Cafgu was "simply one of the many options being considered by government for further study in its continuing review" of the peace agreement.

Ermita also said that utmost care is being undertaken in the review process "subject to consultations with all major stakeholders."

"The option (recruitment into the Cafgu) was discarded when the RPA/ABB leadership later conveyed to Ermita that it did not want to be part of the paramilitary unit," the Palace statement said.

"Ermita reassured the Catholic Church and civil society groups in Negros of government's commitment to advocate the spirit and intent of their concerns relative to the peace accord with the RPA/ABB," Malacañang's statement said.

PNP assures safety of Iloilo traders, execs amid slay threats

ILOILO CITY—The Philippine National Police has assured the safety of businessmen and public officials against assassination threats issued by an armed underground group believed to be allied with slain labor leader Felimon "Popoy" Lagman.

Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, chief of the Police Regional Office in Western Visayas, said they are pursuing operations to "identify and neutralize" the previously unheard group Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino-Armadong Partisano ng Paggawa (PMP-APP).

Last Tuesday, the PMP-APP, through its spokesperson Jovencio Sancho, warned that they would not hesitate to kill "capitalists and bureaucrats who are oppressing the working class" including those in this city.

"We are taking the threat seriously but we also do not want to overemphasize it because this is what the group wants," Garcia told reporters here Saturday during the celebration of the PNP's 11th anniversary.

The PMP-APP issued the statement in an interview with ABS-CBN News-Iloilo reporter Israel Malasa. Malasa said he was invited, picked up, blindfolded, and taken to an unknown place after a 10-minute ride from their television station.

Sancho also demanded "justice" for Lagman who was shot dead a year ago inside the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City. The case remains unresolved.

Lagman was the leader of the militant Bukluran ng Manggawang Pilipino (BMP) when he was killed. He once headed the Communist Party of the Philippines regional organization in Metro Manila before leading a faction that broke away from the CPP in the early 1990s.

Sancho, short of naming the targets, specifically cited businessmen who do not pay their taxes and those who violate labor laws. During the interview, Sancho along with two other men, wore leather jackets, bonnets, dark glasses and carried a .45-caliber pistol. ***Nestor B. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

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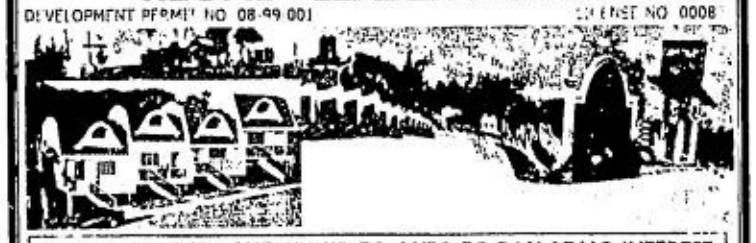
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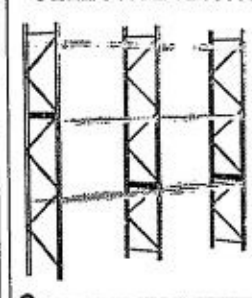
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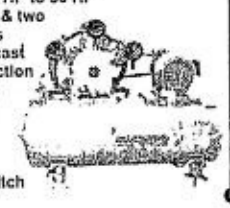
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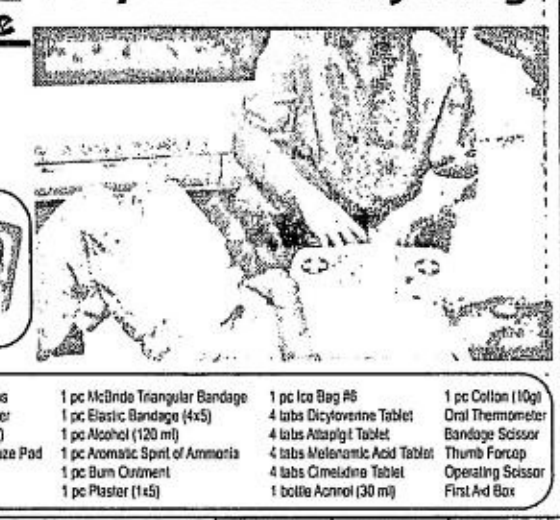
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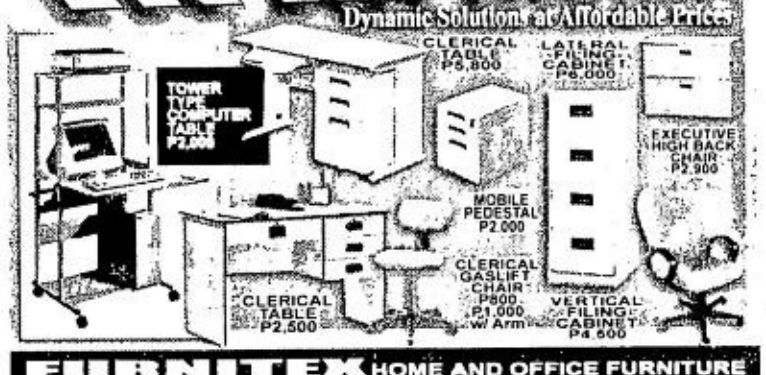

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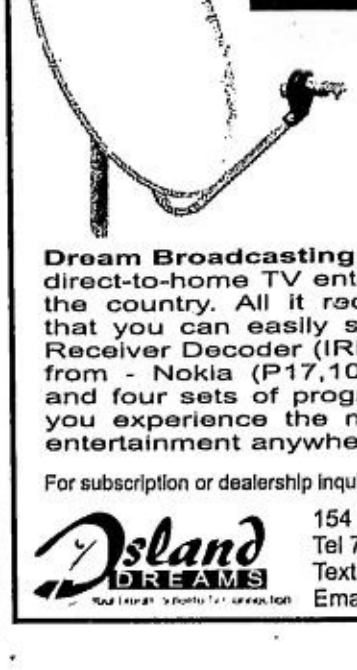
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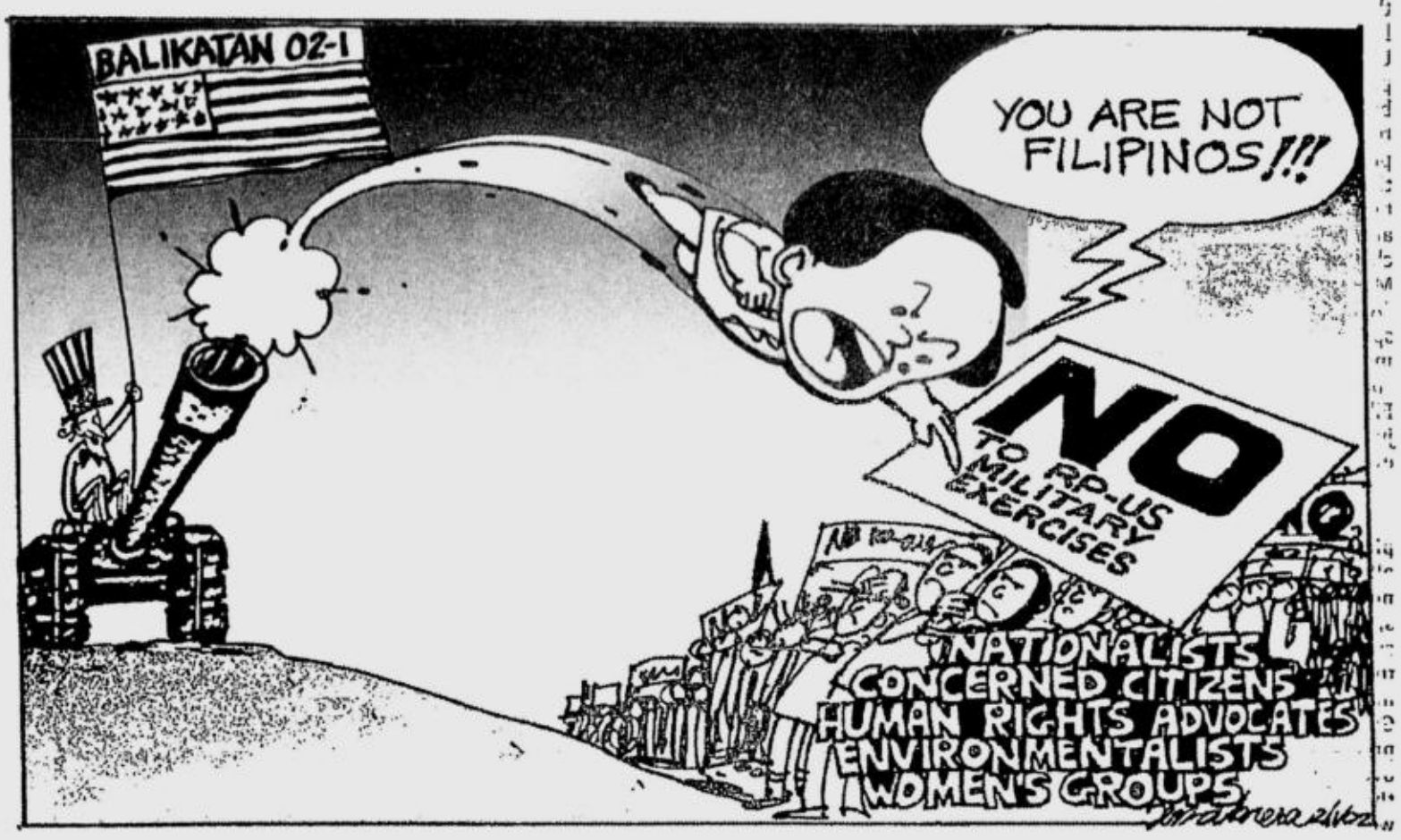

Dis-bonding

THE SOURCES of opposition to the Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates—the so-called PEACe bonds—can be reduced to three basic groupings. Together, they make a motley crowd of critics who ordinarily wouldn't want to be seen in each other's company. Is this coming together a sign that the country's first-ever zero-coupon bond float was either illegal or immoral?

EDITORIAL

No. Politics makes strange bedfellows, and the politics of public debt makes possibly the strangest of all.

The first grouping is, at best, a polluted source. We refer to the *balato* twins and those in the opposition they represent: Sen. John Osmeña, nominally the administration-party chair of the Senate's finance committee, and Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, who asked the committee to investigate the float and the coalition of NGO networks which pioneered it. The last time the two were linked together on an issue was during the *jueteng* hearings in October and November 2000, when the senators admitted receiving P1-million tips *(balato)* from then President Joseph Estrada after one of his particularly lucky days at the mahjong table. The concept of *balato* is relevant in this issue, but it is not the reason why the twins are a polluted source.

It is because, even before the first hearing, Osmeña and Oreta had already pre-judged the case. In fact, their continued opposition to the confirmation of Jose Isidro Camacho as finance secretary stems from their contention that Camacho had loaded the dice or—to use a mahjong metaphor—pre-arranged the tiles to benefit Code-NGO, which is chaired by his sister. Their probe, therefore, has all the objectivity of a Moscow trial. It is only in this context that their discovery of an Aug. 9, 2001 letter allegedly implicating Camacho (note the innuendo) becomes evidence.

The second source consists of some cause-oriented groups whose political leanings can safely be described as well to the left of Osmeña and Oreta. We refer, in particular, to the Freedom from Debt Coalition. The FDC has served the nation well in other issues, but none of its trade-mark numerate rigor is present in its opposition to the PEACe bonds. Several of its arguments are mentally dishonest or the product of lazy research. To cite only two:

• The chances of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Code-NGO's dealer, winning "all four" of its bids was ".0007" (yes, but only if we are talking of chance events, where the principle of uniform distribution then applies; besides, there were seven RCBC bids, of which only four were accepted.)

• That the dealers were given only a week to prepare for the auction, and thus had to deal with higher costs of capital (strictly SOP; with the so-called Erap bonds, for instance, the lead time was all of two days).

The bottom-line FDC contention is that Code-NGO officials tried to pull a fast one, by lobbying friendly government officials to "sweeten" the bonds and by trying to fix a negotiated sale (in keeping with a general policy to maximize its gains). A closer look at the public record shows that the NGO network did lobby hard. But then they had to, to create the right conditions for an attractive and innovative bond float and to ensure a viable poverty alleviation fund. We have to keep in mind that they were pioneering a sophisticated capitalist tool in the context of a developing liberal democracy. What they offered, in effect, was another strategy for bridging the traditional divide between market and community. In this regard, pushing for the right float conditions was mere competence and commitment, which should be commended, not condemned.

This brings us to the third, and broadest, grouping: those who are uneasy about the magnitude of the sums or the possibly unseemly networking involved. The issue of innumeracy aside, the uneasiness at bottom is a basic discomfort with the processes of capitalism. Does this sound like an exaggeration? An investor (say a bank ready to lend the money) would have lauded the marketing and product development that characterize the bonds. Instead, the uneasy magnify their discomfort, and criticize it. To appropriate Churchill's famous remark about democracy: capitalism is the worst, apart from the alternatives.

2 impeachment complaints vs Desierto are dead

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE TWO impeachment complaints against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto appear to be dead in the water. The first complaint filed by lawyer Ernesto Francisco is hearsay. The second is barred by the Constitution until one year after the filing of the first complaint. By that time Desierto, who will retire in August, will already be long out of office.

Why is Francisco's complaint mere hearsay? Francisco alleged that Desierto solicited, through freelance media coordinator Fernando Timbol, camera accessories worth P149,372 and P85,000. Later Desierto allegedly personally received P500,000 cash (later reduced by Francisco to P400,000) from businessman Luke Roxas at the Philippine Plaza Hotel. The bribes were supposedly for the ombudsman to hold in abeyance the investigation into the diversion by Bureau of Customs officials of P539.3 million in taxes paid by Petron to prevent a bank run at Roxas' Bank of Southeast Asia in which the amount involved was deposited.

Roxas has denied in an affidavit that he gave P500,000 in a plastic bag to Desierto nor that he ever met the ombudsman. Francisco's principal witness is gone. Francisco alleges that he saw the plastic bag change hands but he did not see its contents.

On the camera accessories, it was Timbol, not Desierto, who solicited them. It was Timbol who told Francisco it was for Desierto. Hearsay.

The committee on justice of the House of Representatives has already dismissed the complaint but the forces of Rep. Oscar Moreno are trying to gather the necessary one-third vote to send it to the Senate. Alternatively, they are also trying to get 73 signatures to send the complaint direct to the Senate without going through the voting in plenary session.

But the rules say the 73 signatories must sign the complaint in the presence of the secretary general "at the time of filing." The complaint has already long been filed but they are gathering the signatures only now. Even if they gather 100 signatures, it is now too late.

Perhaps knowing this, Moreno has filed a second impeachment complaint against Desierto for "bungling" the prosecution of the P5.2-billion tax credit scam. In the first place, I don't think "bungling" is one of the three or four conditions for the impeachment of a constitutional official. Moreno says it is a "betrayal of public trust." But betrayal means there was a "willful" act of commission or omission. "Bungling" means committing a mistake, an error, which is not willful. It is a judgement call. If that judgement call is erroneous, it is only that, an error.

But anyway, no other impeachment complaint can be filed against Desierto until one year after the first impeachment complaint was filed. The Constitution prohibits it.

Section 3(5), Art. XI of the Constitution provides:

"No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year."

The purpose is obviously to prevent harassment of an official by many impeachment complaints so that his time is consumed trying to defend himself.

The record of the Constitutional Commission (P. 282) clearly states the intention of Art. XI, Sec. 5:

"This is not to protect public officials who, in this case, are of the highest category, from harassment but also to allow the legislative body to do its work which is lawmaking."

Constitutional Commission delegate Joaquin Bernas in his book, "The Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines" (P. 405) wrote:

"This is intended to prevent impeachment from becoming an instrument of mere harassment."

Pro-impeachment forces claim that the first impeachment complaint has not yet been acted by the House so another complaint can be substituted in its place as the one-year ban has not yet started. Wrong.

The Constitution said "initiated," not "affirmed" or "approved." And "initiation" starts from the filing of the verified complaint.

Constitutional Commission delegate Regalado Maambong said on P. 416 of the Record of the Constitutional Commission, Vol. 2: "The initiation xxx really starts from the filing of the verified complaint."

On p. 375, he said: "The procedure, as I have pointed out earlier, was that the initiation starts with the filing of the complaint."

Bernas, in his book on the Constitution (P. 404) said: "The impeachment proceedings begin with a complaint filed with the House of Representatives either by a member of the House or by any citizen supported by a resolution of endorsement by any member."

In "The Intent of the 1986 Constitutional Writers" (P. 770), Bernas amplified: "Impeachment was not 'initiated' by the vote of the House but by the filing of the complaint."

Clearly, the first impeachment complaint against Desierto has been "initiated" and the one-year ban has already started. No second impeachment complaint can be "initiated" (filed) until January 2003. By that time, Desierto would already have retired.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

World-class

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on TV late last week fuming over the backlash she was getting over the US troops in Basilan. When did the "anti-Americans" ever say a good word about any president of this country?—she asked a reporter. But she vowed not to be distracted by them. She was determined to drive this country forward, she said. She was determined to make it world-class.

First off, "anti-Americans" is a convenient term to put people off the track, but that's all it does, put people off the track. I do not know that former Senate President Jovito Salonga, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, several CBCP bishops and the leadership of the NCCP do not like the Americans, or like visiting Broadway and the Strand in New York. Americans routinely defend their independence with a passion that is the envy of the world, but nobody calls them anti-French, anti-British, or anti-Japanese. Everybody calls them pro-American.

I do not know that the people who protest American troops in this country are anti-Americans, but I do know the people in Malacañang who are responsible for them are anti-Filipinos. They are anti-Filipinos in that they thwart the interests of the Filipino people, interests that took a long line of pro-Filipinos, also called nationalists, to defend. Which culminated in 1991 in the historic decision to end US military presence in the Philippines, the biggest thorn in the side of RP-US relations. They are anti-Filipinos in that they blatantly violate the Constitution, in that they resurrect mendicancy as the cornerstone of Philippine foreign policy, and in that they throw us back to the days when Filipinos could be mistaken for wild boars, or their current equivalent, which are Muslim terrorists.

The protesters represent only a small but vociferous minority? Well, it was those same protesters who put Erap out of power. They were a minority at the start, as Erap also dismissed them, because people like Ms Macapagal refused to join them, preferring to remain silent and safe. And they were vociferous because they were right. Their voices did not soar to the heavens merely because they shouted themselves hoarse. They did so because other voices, seeing the virtue of their cause, joined them in chorus.

Why should those protesters have anything good to say about the past presidents? Those presidents began by vowing to rid the country of the scourge of US military presence only to defend it afterward over and beyond the call of toadiness. But at least the presidents in the past were elected, and could argue that they read, or reread, the will of the people and bowed to it. Which brings us to why the protesters should have anything good to say about **this** President. That the one President who least earned the right to become so should feel free to overturn the work of the great men and women that came before her, that is epic perfidy. That the one President who has shown a desire only to look out for herself should feel free to say she represents the will of the people, that is epic tragedy.

The presence of American troops in Basilan—and indeed the looming new military agreements with the United States—will make us world-class? Well, only in the sense that importing American players in the PBA will make our basketball world-class.

The premise is the same. Lest we forget, that is what the whole deal with the American troops in Basilan is. It says in neon lights we are so dumb to solve the problem of a gang of a hundred cutthroats that has kidnapped a couple of Americans that we have to import 600 American soldiers and advisers to do the job. At least in the PBA, the premise is completely correct: We are too small and too slow to ever play the game with NBA aplomb. So we need imports to spice things up, imports who do all the work and make the locals look really dumb. It is hard to see how that is so in the South. The fact that the Armed Forces of the Philippines has been able to corner the Abu Sayyaf and let them escape must suggest that we are looking at a different kind of dumbness—or shrewdness, depending on how you look at it.

But whether one or the other, how can that painfully self-flagellating premise ever make us world-class? You want world-class, all you have to do is look at Singapore and Thailand and Malaysia, three neighbors that used to import university education from the Philippines but now import only its poverty-stricken poor to serve as maids in their homes. None of them has ever had American bases, none of them has ever had American troops, none of them has ever had American advisers telling them what to do. None of them has ever thought to say that they are incapable of solving their problems with kidnapping, terrorism, drugs and poverty. Certainly, none of them has ever thought to proclaim abjectness as a path to world-class-ness.

Some of our leaders have proposed that we adopt the authoritarianism of those countries to propel us to where they are. Fidel Ramos being chief of them. But in fact, it was not authoritarianism that brought them to where they are. It was a fierce sense of independence, it was a fierce sense of capability, it was a fierce sense of country. Three ways to say the same thing. Lee Kuan Yew has that pride, Mahathir has that pride, King Bhumibol Adulyadej has that pride. They are symbols of national unity, they are symbols of national strength. It is not Lee's and Mahathir's despotism that has rallied their people around them, it is the confidence they inspire in them. Bhumibol's regal bearing does not come from being king alone, it comes from acting like one.

World-class? Well, we did produce world-class people from the US bases in Clark and Subic. They are currently working in the Roponggi district of Japan.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@yasia.com

Wrong spiel

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Macapagal's tough-talking stance on the US presence here, dubbed by the media as "a la Bush's with-us-or-against-us" speech before the US Congress," would be a big-hit in the US, where people like to talk tough and appreciate frankness; but in our setting such stance is bound to be negative. She obviously drew inspiration from the US president and perhaps advice from her international board of advisers, who, except for its secretary general, business executive Roberto Romulo, are all based in the US. She may also have been challenged by the question mark raised by Time Magazine in its recent cover story on her, titled "Asia's Iron Lady?" But unfortunately GMA's speech, which labeled all those who are questioning some aspects of the Balikatan agreement as "pro-terrorism and Abu Sayyaf lovers" and "anti-Filipino," may have offended Filipino sensibilities, judging by some immediate negative reactions even from some of her allies.

* * *

It would have been more effective if she had pleaded for support for the Balikatan exercises all around instead of resorting to labels—Filipinos, most of whom have a *pusong-mamon*, respond better to pleas instead of taunts and insults. What is sad is that over the past two weeks the President had responded to pleas from the nationalist bloc led by Vice President Teofisto Guingona for the terms of reference to be more precise about sovereignty guarantees; moreover, even the Senate seemed to have regarded the TOR in a more favorable light after last week's hearing chaired by Senators Blas Ople and Ramon Magsaysay Jr. The President won plaudits for her display of states(wo)manship in accommodating the nationalists' viewpoint, which therefore caught everyone by surprise when she let loose her a la Bush spiel at her press conference. GMA should not squander her goodwill.

* * *

Former Senate President and first PCGG Chair Jovito Salonga called up to stress that contrary to the impression my column gave, he was not advocating as a sole option that the Philippines resort to invoking the "Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters." Salonga stressed that he meant this option merely as an alternative, in case the Marcos ill-gotten wealth case in Switzerland dragged on in our courts as they have over the past 16 years. What he seems to be saying is that he hasn't given up on our judicial system yet, even though, like most of us, he may be close to despairing about it.

* * *

Whenever I myself border on a kind of despair about the state of affairs in our country, I find myself turning to music, and my readers find me occasionally talking about classical presentations staged by my good friend, Chola Navarro, featuring our Filipino classical singers. Over the past two weeks, as the controversy over the US forces involvement escalated, mercifully there were three musical occasions staged by three religious groups which I indulged myself in. For centuries the Church turned to music to extol the Creator and His Love for Man, and those three concerts simply continued the tradition. One was the concert staged by the Jesuit Music Ministry for those with physical and emotional sufferings, titled "The World is God's Dwelling Place," at the Loyola School of Theology in Quezon City. The concert featured the music of Jesuit scholastic Arnel Aquino, who is quite a whiz at the piano and as a composer, as well as the compositions of other Jesuit composers such as Fathers Manoling Francisco and Ed Hontiveros. Brother Arnel annotated the various segments of the show, while talented Jesuit priests and scholastics sang them. One of the soloists was Fr. Chris Dumadag, who served in Cambodia as a scholastic working in the Jesuit Refugee Service, at the same time that my husband was ambassador there. The Loyola audience saw people in wheelchairs and crutches, and obviously the religious music was balm for their souls.

* * *

Another concert featured the singing priests of the Order of the Augustinian Recollects (OAR) who staged "Handum: A Concert for Peace" at the Our Lady of Consolation Church run by the OAR in Tandang Sora, QC, in order to raise funds for its Recoletos Formation Center. "Handum" is an Ilonggo word for "desire" or "yearning," and as Bro. Michael John Tambasen, the concert's musical director, put it, the singing Recollects yearn, with the entire nation, for peace in our own individual hearts, in our land and in the whole world. As the Augustinian Recollect prior provincial, Fr. Emterio D. Buñao, put it, "music has always been part of the Recollect way of life. It is the language of our soul and the rhythm of our spirit in praising and worshipping God." Last Feb. 2's concert was yet another chapter in the order's track-record in music artistry, blazed by "Dulaang Recoleto," its theater guild in Baguio City.

* * *

Recollect Provincial Buñao stressed music "has always been an excellent and effective way of communicating and sharing with others these God-given gifts." And what God-given gifts for music these Recollects have, and in such generous abundance. Brother Tambasen, a 26-year-old Ilonggo who learned his music mostly by "oido," is an accomplished musician who plays various kinds of instruments, and is a prolific composer and singer. Other talented singers included Deacons Clint Gamboa, Rueann Alcedo, Dunstan Lamberto and Allan Villa, as well as priests Bernard Amparado, Amadeo Lucero, Julius Marcos and Randolph Castillo, while the remarkable flutist was Fr. Glynn Ortega. Listening to all these singing priests glorify God in music reinforced the theory of Jesuit historian Horacio de la Costa decades ago that the Filipino's two precious gifts from God are his music and his faith.

Anonymous letters

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

HANDWRITTEN letters have certain qualities that set them apart from other means of written communication.

There is more warmth in this kind of letters compared to those written with the typewriter (yes, some people still use this device) or computer. The advantage though of letters written with mechanical assistance is they are easier to read and understand.

The latest communication gadget—texting—that some readers use is a turn-off. It is difficult to make heads or tails out of the abbreviated words used. The meanings of the words vary from sender to sender.

What makes handwritten letters special is the amount of effort that goes into their preparation. After physically writing (or rewriting) a letter, the sender puts it in an envelope, goes to the nearest post office to buy a stamp and then drops it in the mailbox. The exercise will appeal only to committed or dedicated readers.

Last week, I received a handwritten letter from Ms Eufracia A. Ardiente of Abuyog, Leyte. When I asked our research staff for information about that town, I learned it is a coastal town that lies in the eastern part of Leyte.

The quality of her letter caught my attention immediately. It was legibly written. The margins on both sides were even. There were no inkblots or erasures. She chose her words carefully. Her letter was a virtual model of good letter-writing. I have a feeling she taught English grammar during her younger years.

Describing herself as a retired school teacher of her town, she wrote: "I am writing in reaction to the letter ('Rudeness and cruelty in the delivery room') of an anonymous writer that was published on Dec. 3, 2001 in your Opinion page. I just read the letter yesterday, Jan. 21, even if it was published a month ago. The letter really touched me.

"I have a younger sister, two nieces and a goddaughter who are all nurses and they did not experience the same problem. It's probably because most of them worked abroad and not here in the Philippines.

"I would like to request the INQUIRER to look for that medical practitioner and ask him or her the name of that medical center, maternity hospital or clinic that does not have anesthesia. That was terrible and cruel. Please ask the health authorities to look into the case so they can take the proper action."

Writer's request

The Dec. 3, 2001 letter to the editor referred to by the reader is about the alleged practice of some doctors in an unnamed government hospital to deliver babies or conduct minor, but painful, operations without anesthesia. The writer, a medical practitioner in the same hospital, also noted that the doctors attended to the charity patients in a condescending manner.

From the way the letter was written, it was apparent the writer participated in some of the operations mentioned. The words "name withheld upon request," rather than the writer's name, appeared at the end of the letter.

Now, let's discuss the reader's comments.

The writer's true identity is known to the Opinion editor. She is a nurse at the unnamed government hospital. She complied with the newspaper's requirement that letter senders should state their name, address and telephone number in their letters or else their letters would not be considered for publication.

Because of the sensitivity of the incidents mentioned in the letter, the INQUIRER staff called her contact number to confirm her existence and links with the hospital. The information gathered by the staff matched with the data she wrote in her letter. Since the letter met the newspaper's criteria, it was promptly put on queue for publication in the Letters section.

Fearful of being ostracized by her colleagues or, worse, losing her job, she requested that her name not be disclosed. The editor felt her request was reasonable so he put instead the words "name withheld upon request" at the end of the letter.

According to the editor, he did not see any need to inform the health authorities about the acts complained of because the letter immediately caught the attention of the government officials concerned. In fact, the newspaper's editorial desk got calls from various sectors wanting to get more details about the government hospital referred to and the doctors involved in the incidents mentioned.

Whether or not the publicity generated by the letter will lead to an improvement in the services of the government hospital is a big question mark. Let's keep our fingers crossed. Miracles sometimes happen in this age.

Identification

This brings me now to the question I have received from many readers in the past about the practice of the INQUIRER of sometimes withholding the name of letter senders.

The newspaper has a stiff "no, no" rule for unsigned letters to the editor. No matter how explosive or shocking the contents of a letter may be, straight to the wastebasket it goes if it does not bear the name of the sender. The newspaper will not take up the cudgels for somebody who does not want to disclose his or her true identity.

Signed letters, however, do not automatically qualify for publication. They have to meet the requirements of relevancy (that is, they should relate to current events or issues) and conciseness before they can be considered for publication. Long-winded or wordy letters are taboo.

The letter sender can ask that his name be withheld if he fears for his or her family's safety or there is reason to believe he/she will lose his/her job or livelihood if the subject of the letter learns about his/her identity.

If the Opinion editor thinks that, on the basis of the contents of the letter and the standing of the sender, the apprehensions expressed by the sender are valid, the request for anonymity is granted.

But the sender's name, address and contact number remain on file so the editor knows who to run after in case the newspaper gets into trouble for publishing the contentious letter.

So far, knock on wood, the INQUIRER has not been haled to court for any of the letters it has published. Often, the parties who feel aggrieved by "name withheld" letters simply request that they be given equal opportunity and space to answer whatever statements against them may have been made in those letters. These requests are favorably acted upon.

It probably has something to do with the Filipinos' innate sense of curiosity, but whenever "name withheld" letters that contain serious or intriguing statements are published, the staff get calls from third parties asking for the name or clues about the identity of the letter sender.

Whatever may be the reason for the request for additional information, the identity of the sender is, like the seal of the confessional, kept under wraps. Only a valid court order will allow the disclosure of those secret names.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

The US military in Mindanao

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

THE AMERICAN military came to Mindanao in the year 1900 in rather unfriendly circumstances, to say the least. At that time, the Northern Mindanao resistance against impending American rule was already organized and was part of the nationwide revolutionary movement to counter the United States' subjection of the Philippines. It was therefore anti-colonial.

Sailing from Southern Luzon on a US naval vessel, the 40th Infantry of US Volunteers first disembarked soldiers in Surigao on March 27, 1900, then to Cagayan on March 29, Iligan on March 31, Misamis (now Ozamiz City) on April 1, and finally Dapitan later in the day. By that time; Emilio Aguinaldo's tricolor was already fluttering in the skies of Northern Mindanao.

The captain of the American ship had ordered that the "insurgent" flag be brought down at the Cagayan wharf. Each time he was refused. Out of rage, the ship trained its guns not on the revolutionaries already massing at the hillsides but on the helpless flagpole! What a way to announce the coming of the policeman of the world.

Northern Mindanao put up a fight against the Americans from the hills of Western Misamis (now Misamis Occidental) to the heavily wooded coasts of Surigao.

The Surigao resistance was led by Gen. Daniel Toribio Sison who had fought with Gen. Vicente Lukban's forces in Samar and Leyte. The campaign in Cagayan was led by Gen. Nicolas Capistrano who had earlier escaped Spanish persecution in Manila. In Western Misamis, the resistance was led by Gen. Rufino Deloso.

Having been no match to the well-armed Americans, the nationalists resorted to guerrilla tactics to slow down the tide of the American offensive. But the Americans followed a pattern they begun in Luzon, which was to employ Filipino scouts to help track down the nationalists. The Americans soon routed the Filipinos in one encounter after another. Only at the Battle of Makahambus in Cagayan on June 4, 1900 did they experience defeat under the nationalists.

Despite this, anti-Americanism in Mindanao did not die so easily as the Americans would have wanted. Instead, it was a cause that persisted with consistent intermittence elsewhere in the region.

Today's Filipino college students in Philippine history are familiar with the name "Colorum Uprising." In 1903, a group of armed Filipinos (outlaws, according to William Howard Taft) entered Surigao and attacked the American constabulary station, killing the American captain and carting away the guns of the detachment. Taft ordered the capture of the "insurrectos." The American district judge tried the case for a month under guard by a phalanx of 703 US infantry soldiers. Finally, the verdict came and the Filipinos were hanged, earning praises from President Theodore Roosevelt who commended the Americans in Surigao for their "heroic deeds."

As the Aguinaldo phase ended, the Americans continued their intrusion into the interior Mindanao territories of the Moro. Both Moro and Lumad people were not considered "prepared for civil rule." Hence, they continued to be governed by American military authorities. The American euphemism for it was "pacification campaigns."

Thus, even without the national insurrection movement of Aguinaldo, Moro resistance continued against the Americans. At this time, the US Army mobilized to Lanao its famous commanders: Generals Adnan Chaffee and Leonard Wood, Col. Frank Baldwin, a Major Bullard and Capt. John "Black Jack" Pershing. It was Baldwin who led the capture of the *kota* of Bayang.

Despite their inferior weapons, the Maranao staged a bloody resistance in what came to be known as the Battle of Bayang. The American press spoke of the battle as "the fiercest encounter in the entire Philippine insurrection." There were heavy casualties on both sides, and among the fallen heroes was the brave Sultan of Bayang and his fighting datus.

Maranao defenders, said to be in the hundreds of casualties, were routed by Pershing in Masiu, Taraka and Bacolod Grande. At Masiu alone, about 40 to 50 men perished, including the sultan. All in all, the American pacification campaigns against the Moro saw the loss of no less than 20,000 Moro people.

Fast forward to the year 2002, these are all déjà vu. More so, it only indicates a strong anti-colonial tradition in Mindanao. It would be false thinking to say that such tradition leaves no residues among the sentiments of present-day Mindanao people.

No doubt a new factor has entered the picture that wasn't there before: the Abu Sayyaf. No doubt too that routing the Abu Sayyaf appears to be a popular cause, surveys or not. Certainly, the jubilant anticipation of many Basilan and Zamboanga residents, both Muslims and Christians, who wish to put the Abu Sayyaf issue to its final rest, is understandable. Certainly, the impasse has dragged on far too long without any end in sight.

But why not first clear the act of the Philippine military? That 6,000 to 7,000 soldiers of our military are in Basilan as against only a handful of Abu Sayyaf bandits clearly shows something wrong with our military strategies and professionalism. Besides, there is the taint of allegations that the Philippine military has benefited from ransom payoffs.

Mindanaoans have been wary of war for so long. No doubt the Abu Sayyaf, which has only perverted the true image of Islam, must be eliminated. But bringing in foreign troops only opens the nightmarish memories of American military presence of a hundred years past, opposition to which, by the way, was then a popular Filipino nationalistic cause.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

Is Chief Justice Davide a religious bigot?

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

ABRAHAM Lincoln once said that a nation cannot live half-free and half-slave, for either all shall become free or all shall become slaves (presumably to the unjust system that fosters such inequities).

Although these stirring words were said to justify civil war over Negro slavery, Lincoln was addressing that even larger issue of the very survival of the democratic idea. The American democratic experiment, whose success is a model for the future of other nations, would have been an utter failure, if the Confederacy had defeated the Union, and America split into North and South United States or even several disunited states. In that avoided nightmare, what horrific wars would have come to pass, and the present, grimmer become!

Even if democracy is the "rule of the majority" Lincoln realized that it cannot survive if the rights of minorities, whether based on race or creed or gender, are not upheld and defended. But defended by whom? Majorities can be, by their nature, tyrannical, in the passive sense that they have simply to do nothing and any existing tyranny is accomplished.

Therefore this task of upholding and defending minority rights must be an essential duty of the government since the majority can hardly be expected to do it. That was Lincoln's supreme contribution to democratic theory. It led to the liberal Supreme Courts of the '60s, and the tolerant, progressive society we see in America today. At least history agrees that Lincoln was right, although maybe he was too late for the American Indians.

We must learn something from this in our own problem with the Muslim minority. Even after we deal with the terrorists in Mindanao, like the Abu Sayyaf, we shall not even have touched the roots of the Muslim problem in the fertile soil of a proud people, mocked and debased by the ignorant bigotry and dereliction of constitutional duty by the highest and most respected officials of the Philippine government.

Take President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. She thinks nothing of celebrating Catholic Masses in Malacañang and allowing it in any office of the national government. Or Chief Justice Hilario Davide, who stained his sterling performance of duty and tore his judicial robes into tatters, by allowing the singing of a triumphalist Catholic anthem at Erap's Senate trial. I plead guilty to hearsay, but I've heard it said that he is a religious bigot. Many don't understand why this is such a big deal. But then again, there were few if any Muslims there, except in the television audience. How can Muslims have confidence in a national government led by people who callously disregard the Constitution, or obviously misconstrue it? How can anyone?

Every time I bring up this topic it sounds like an attack on the Catholic Church. It is most emphatically NOT because I believe in its right to religious freedom. But like the greater majority, the Catholic Church simply has to do nothing and these tyrannies will continue, mere tips of an iceberg of religious and cultural segregation that are the roots of the Muslim problem. The Catholic bishops did look Taliban-like, when, in a televised conference assembled, with white robes instead of black, they presumptuously blessed the arrival of American troops. But it is not their duty, nor inclination, to enforce the constitutional demand for no more state religion, or even the looks of it. That is the government's duty. So this is not about religion, but about democracy, not about the Church, but the duties of the State and its officials.

I have never seen it more clearly, that the real culprits, despite unrelated virtues, are people like Ms Macapagal and Davide, who do not realize that symbols are more powerful than bombs, that constitutions matter more than elections. Their public display of dedication to our unofficial state religion only proves to minorities that their most basic rights in economics, politics and society shall be denied forever. In America, both would have been impeached long ago.

The President is of course a thoroughly political animal, so she is hopeless. What more effective pitch than "I go to Mass every day, first thing in the morning, not like Erap the sinner."? Yet systemic corruption continues unabated in her administration, as bad as under Erap, but with elitist discretion, and a code of silence from her NGO and civil society pals. As for the Senate and Congress, they are peripheral to progress.

That only leaves the Supreme Court, a damaged institution since the day it blessed Marcos' martial law. The cowards and scoundrels of that puppet court are gone, yet it seems there's still not one there who really understands the problem of minority rights trampled upon by no less than their own chief. It is that court's supreme failure.

And don't tell me there are no cases to adjudicate that expose the grander infirmities of our dysfunctional democracy. Southern segregation ended and affirmative action for Negroes turned on a seemingly insignificant 1955 case of a black woman refusing to give up her seat at the front of a bus to a white man. Her name was Rosa Parks. Look it up, your honors. You will need to comprehend that jurisprudence someday, else this nation shall not long endure in its present form and constitution. Who will file our Rosa Parks case?

Baguio judge clarifies exposé made

THIS refers to the editorial of Feb. 6, 2002.

I wish to clarify some misconceptions therein.

The editorial spoke of a consuming ambition on my part.

On the contrary, when I exposed the corruption and immorality of some of my colleagues in my order, I was risking my career as a judge, putting my life on the line and staking my family honor.

You may not believe it but I did it compelled by duty and conscience.

If I was thinking only of myself and ambition, I would have kept silent as I am in the list of nominees for the Court of Appeals forwarded by the Judicial and Bar Council to the President last Jan. 11, 2002. I could have simply waited whether I made it or not. Why rock the boat? But I did not.

Again, the editorial spoke of a rivalry between Judges Antonio Reyes, Clarence Villanueva, Ruben Caguioa and Edilberto Claravall on the one hand and myself on the other, and that I was a poor loser.

What rivalry is there when I made it to the final list of nominees and they did not? But that is all beside the point.

Perhaps the editorial wanted me to come out with more. I do not wish to engage in a media war with my colleagues. I did not leak my order to the press, which was mainly addressed to my executive judge for action.

Anyway, the matter has already reached the Supreme Court's attention. In due time the whole truth will come out. I have just submitted my letter of explanation of the antecedents of my action to the chief justice with documentary annexes.

The editorial likewise questioned the manner in which I brought it out. To me what is important is what I brought out, not how I brought it out.

—RUBEN C. AYSON, Baguio City

Hitting the nail on the head

ASUNCION David-Maramba's article "GMA deserves better" (PDI, 1/23/02) is a brilliant piece of journalism, and I congratulate her for it. She is one of the few columnists who can see the true problem. She hit the nail on the head. In this country, THE real problem is us, the people. No wonder that the American colonizers in the early days found us "childish," which is what we are.

Everybody wants to be "President." Why, even our streets in our barangay sport some president's name. A lot of people say and do foolish things just to serve their selfish interests. The values are not there, unfortunately. These failings are only a few of the many that need to be addressed. And they are not attributable to poverty. Despite all these, I still am not throwing my hands up in defeat. Perhaps, some day, things will change, but we have to start now.

Maramba's article must be read by people who are in the higher echelons of our society. It is common sense that needs to be driven home.

—R. C. AUSTRIA, rcaustria@pacific.net.ph

Those against having US troops here

BESIDES THE COMMUNISTS, as President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo charged, there are other opponents to having US troops in the Philippines, namely:

1. Those profiting from the Abu Sayyaf's continued existence, such as those sharing in the ransom that they collect.

2. Pseudo-nationalists in American-made jockey shorts.

3. The "nattering nabobs of negativism" as one American vice president put it.

4. Those who have an ax to grind against the United States, such as those denied US visas, or could never hope to get US visas, or had unfortunate experiences with Americans.

5. The ingrates who received an American education, particularly those who were awarded Fulbright/Smith Mundt scholarships.

6. The legal gobbledygookers.—**EMMANUEL SAMONTE TIPON, Attorney at Law, Fremont, CA 94538**

Don't close GSIS Hostel Condotel

WE would like to comment on the Government Service Insurance System's decision to shut down the operation of its GSIS Hostel Condotel on Anonas corner Pureza Streets, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Since we are GSIS members and frequent guests of this government hostel, we were surprised upon reading a notice that it will stop its operations on Feb. 15, 2002. It is in this regard that we came up with these remarks to such closure:

- Since most patrons of the GSIS Hostel Condotel are GSIS members from far regions like Bicol, Cagayan, Mindanao and the Visayas, members will now be deprived of having the benefits of lodging in an affordable hostel—for official business or a private visit in Manila.
- With the GSIS' decision to shut down this hostel, GSIS members will now be obliged to stay in private hostels which cost much more and which they can ill afford.

Having been loyal GSIS contributors for years, and thankful guests of this very convenient GSIS facility, we are dismayed by its impending closure. We now must ask:

- Does President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo know about this expected closure in a few days of the GSIS Hostel Condotel? If so, does she approve?
- When the GSIS top honchos made this decision, did they consider the welfare of GSIS members and the large convenience that the GSIS Condotel has been to GSIS members from all over the country?
- Whatever the reasons for shutting down, can't the GSIS hierarchy consider alternatives that are not so drastic or final for their members' sake?

We, GSIS member-guests, want to know the real score. We also appeal to the President to prevent the immediate closure of the GSIS Hostel Condotel and study the issue further.

—REY ROMEO GUAB, Juban, Sorsogon; MARILOU SAN ANGEL, Region 2; SALVADOR SICOY, Tacloban City

February 11, 2002

PETRON

SO THAT THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

In light of the recent initiative by the Department of Finance (DOF) to file "plunder" charges against one of our former Vice-Presidents, and the spate of news reports where former officers of Petron have been cited in connection with the so-called tax credit scam, we wish to reiterate that Petron has consistently complied with tax regulations and guidelines set by the DOF and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on the use of tax credit certificates (TCC).

We have faithfully exercised diligence in using TCCs to pay for our financial obligations to the national government, and the records support this fact.

As such, we are firmly convinced and have no doubts at all that our officers are innocent of the charges brought against them. Our former Vice President, Mr. Celso L. Legarda, whose otherwise untarnished reputation has been besmirched by the frequent references to him in news reports about the TCC scam, served Petron for 34 years with complete dedication and unquestionable integrity. We are confident that the investigation will vindicate him.

We accepted the TCCs in question at their full face value and had them verified by the proper government entities before they were applied towards our tax and duty obligations. This was pursuant to the procedures prescribed by law and as sustained by the Court of Tax Appeals.

We also state categorically that we never met with the Ombudsman or any of his officials relating to any case pending before their office. Nor have we pursued our interest through any illegal, immoral or foul means.

Petron Management

Focusing on corruption and good governance

IN A LETTER to the editor (PDI, 2/1/02), Manuel F. Almario accused the Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF) of slandering the Filipino people by believing that corruption needs to be confronted if we are to make headway in the arena of development. Yet, by stating that "as long as humans are humans, there will be corruption," he slandered mankind. This defeatist attitude should not pervade in this milieu of social, political, economic and moral reforms.

Almario said that the FEF and many Filipino economists are "parroting" Western commentators by zeroing in on corruption as one of the major reasons why the Philippines has failed to take off.

Failing to recognize the value of modern governance, Almario hit corruption in the United States, citing the case of Enron. He even reminisced about the case of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant that was built by Westinghouse, a well-known American multinational.

The FEF does not deny the existence of corruption anywhere else in the world. The Enron exposé and other cases of corporate malfeasance in connivance with the public sector are cases in point of the folly of corruption. These are the very reason why we are saying that, in increasingly interconnected economies, good governance matters.

The merits of protectionism have long been debunked. Countless empirical studies have proven that the protectionist policies that were adopted in the past were the very reasons why the country lost several decades of development. Protectionism provided for a convenient veil that hid government officials' and cronies' prolonged thievery in government offices. These practices are slowly being unveiled by market-oriented and transparent mechanisms.

Unlike developed economies, we do not have the capacity to absorb large cases of corruption. It is precisely why we are pushing for a more transparent and accountable management of the nation's affairs. For instance, the recent P5.3-billion credit scam could not have been carried out if there were sufficient safeguards in our institutions. Rough estimates of yearly losses in tax collection alone amount to P400 billion every year. In government procurement, P90 billion is lost yearly. A compelling reason to push for administrative measures that will prevent these massive losses. Unlike in developed countries, these losses set us further back as the government fails to provide for infrastructure development, improvement in our education system, social services and other enabling mechanisms that will help boost our competitiveness as a nation.

Meanwhile, we from the FEF, will continue to work in our own little way for a better future for our nation.

In the final analysis, backward economic principles and ancient ideologies should remain extinct.

—ELLEN CAIN, Foundation for Economic Freedom Inc., G/F, Room 105-106, Cristina 1 Bldg., 71 Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City

Happiness reminders

A WOMAN I know climbed on the bathroom scale after two weeks of butterless toast and chilly jogs around the park. The needle was still stuck on the number where she'd started. This struck her as typical of how things had been going on lately. She was destined never to be happy.

As she dressed, scowling at her tight jeans, she found a P1,000 bill in her pocket. Then her sister called with a funny story. When she hurried out to the car—angry that she had to get gas—she discovered her roommate had already filled the tank for her. And this was a woman who thought she'd never be happy.

Every day, it seems, we're flooded with pop-synch advice about happiness. The relentless message is that there's something we're supposed to do to be happy—make the right choices, or have the right set of beliefs about ourselves.

Coupled with this is the notion that happiness is a permanent condition. If we're not joyful all the time, we conclude there's a problem.

Yet, what most people experience is not a permanent state of happiness. It is something more ordinary, a mixture of what essayist Hugh Prather once called "unsolved problems," ambiguous victories and vague defeats—with few moments of clear peace.

Maybe you wouldn't say yesterday was a happy day, because you had a misunderstanding with your best friend. But weren't there moments of happiness, moments of peace? Now that you think about it, wasn't there a letter from an old friend, or a stranger who asked where you got such a great haircut? You remember having a bad day, yet those moments occurred.

Happiness is like a visitor, a genial, exotic Aunt Lea who turns up when you least expect her, orders an extravagant round of drinks and then disappears, trailing a lingering scent of gardenias. You cannot command her presence; you can only appreciate her when she does show up. And you can't force happiness to happen but you can make sure you are aware of it when it does.

While you're walking home with a head full of problems, try to notice how the sunset seems to set the windows of the city on fire. Listen to the shouts of kids playing in the fading light, and feel your spirit rise, just from having paid attention.

Happiness is an attitude, not a condition. It's cleaning the blinds while listening to an aria, or spending a pleasant hour organizing your closet. Happiness is your family assembled at dinner. It's in the present, not in the distant promise a "someday when..." How much luckier we are—and how much more happiness we experience—if we can fall in love with the life we're living.

Happiness is a choice. Reach out for it at the moment it appears like a balloon drifting seaward in a bright blue sky.

—KARL L. NUADA, 7 Fronte St., Village East Executive Homes, Cainta, Rizal

Inadequate off-campus training

THE OFF-CAMPUS courses offered by various colleges and universities to government workers contribute to the continuous deterioration of the Philippine educational system.

While it is true that undergraduate government employees undergo a qualifying test prior to their schooling, still the quality of teaching remains sub-standard.

Even in the usual classroom where school authorities have direct control over the teaching profession, lessons are poorly taught, more insufficient knowledge is transmitted when it is conducted inside government offices. The students-employees, especially those possessing supervisory positions, have mustered the art of befriending their professors and thereby easily passing the course. This is particularly true for those taking up a masteral degree whose aim is merely to get a diploma, a requirement for promotion to the position of division chief.

Research in this method of education is poorly and hastily done and copied from books and previous theses. It is not even scrutinized and deliberated intensively to achieve a significant result.

How can the objective of improving the system of business and public administration be attained if knowledge acquired by these would-be heads of office from their post-graduate courses via off-campus education is inadequate?

The government must put a quick end to this practice, or else we fill the bureaucracy with a bunch of inadequate masters of nothing.

—JOSEFINO S. BISDA, National Printing Office, Edsa corner NIA Northside Road, Diliman, Quezon City

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Afghans want to try ex-Taliban FM

KABUL—Afghan authorities say the former Taliban foreign minister, held by the US military after he reportedly gave himself up, should be put on trial to answer for crimes committed during the Islamic militia's hardline rule.

The surrender of Mullah Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil has raised hopes that other Taliban leaders may turn themselves in.

Muttawakil, the highest Taliban official known to be in custody, surrendered Friday to Afghan authorities in Kandahar and is being questioned at the southern city's US-commandeered airfield, US military officials said.

Muttawakil could provide information about the movements of al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar in the regime's final days. Both men remain at large.

"This is a moment that we have been waiting for—to make sure that these individuals face trial, either in Afghanistan or outside Afghanistan, for their actions and deeds in the past," said Omar Samad, an Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesperson. "It's about time that a known Taliban figure who held a position of authority is turning himself in and hopefully others will be caught later."

Scoffing at Muttawakil's reputation as a Taliban moderate, Samad said the Afghan government would like to "interrogate him for a while" and wants him tried by US, Afghan or international authorities.

A PRISONER, a former Taliban, waits to be released in front. Red Cross observers in Kabul Feb. 10 Afghan authorities released around 270 rank-and-file Afghan Taliban prisoners, who were given cash by the government and the Red Cross to help them return to their homes. REUTERS

"What we do insist on is that he does face trial and he does face some type of justice and answer questions about his past involvement in terrorism activities and human rights violations during the Taliban regime," Samad said in an interview in Washington. "These are crimes against humanity that include massacres and atrocities, and cultural crimes including destruction of artifacts."

US officials said Muttawakil surrendered to Afghan authorities, but Kandahar officials claimed to know nothing about it.

Although Afghan and US authorities remain concerned about security threats posed by Taliban and al-Qaida fugitives, the government on Saturday released 320 captured Taliban fighters, a gesture of reconciliation as the new administration focuses on rebuilding the country after 23 years of war.

The interim government's leader, Hamid Karzai, told the shivering prisoners lined up in freezing weather on a field in front of the presidential palace to go home.

"Instead of using guns, work and earn money," Karzai said. *AP*

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US planning campaign against Iraq—LA Times

LOS ANGELES—The administration of US President George W. Bush is engaged in a major Iraq policy review that may result in massive military action against the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, The Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

The administration expects to complete this long-delayed Iraq policy review by the time Vice President Richard Cheney makes his Middle East tour next month, so that he can outline American plans to Arab leaders, the daily said, citing senior US officials.

The emerging new Iraq policy is based on two premises, according to the report.

First, the Iraq problem has to be solved, not simply managed as it was during the previous US administrations.

Second, Washington is prepared to push beyond the limitations imposed by international sentiment, Arab public opinion and even the original UN resolutions that opened the way for Operation Desert Storm 11 years ago, The Times said.

According to the report, policymakers are considering three basic scenarios.

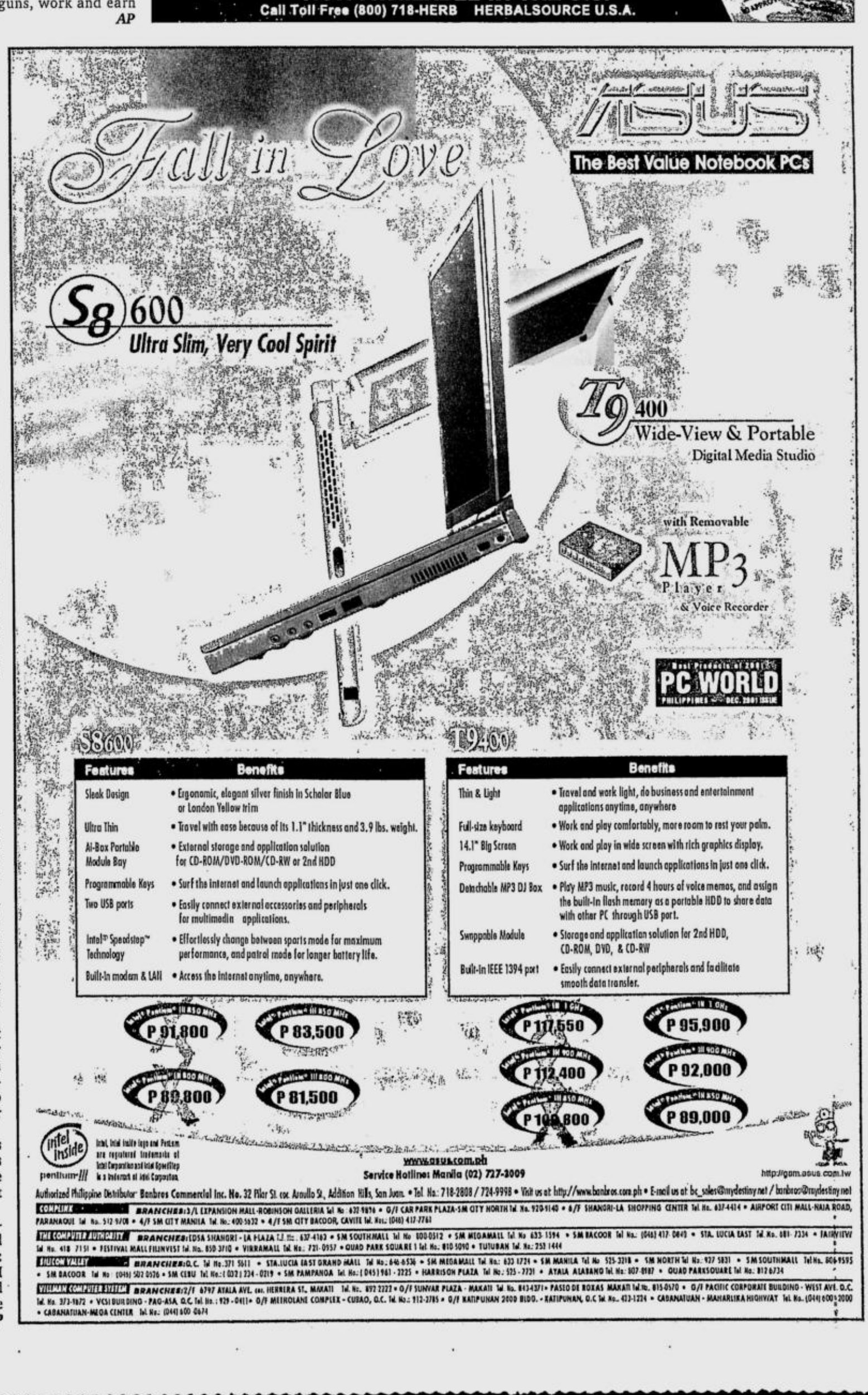
A diplomatic option calls for working through the United Nations to pass new "smart sanctions" and press Saddam to allow the return of UN arms inspectors ejected from Iraq in 1998.

Also under consideration is a military campaign, probably relying heavily on air power and potential defections within the Iraqi military, the paper said.

The administration may also opt for tightening the political noose around Baghdad's neck with more coercive actions by neighboring states and the international community, according to the report.

In Jerusalem, the US administration has given Israel the nod to strike back at Iraq if the Saddam regime attacks it during a possible US operation against Iraq, the Israeli daily Haaretz said Sunday.

The daily said that after visits by Israeli Prime Minister Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, senior US officials told Sharon they understand that Israel "will not sit quietly" if attacked. *AFP*



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US seen going 'absolutist, simplistic' in world view

CACERES, Spain—EU External Affairs Commissioner Chris Patten made no apologies Saturday for a blunt warning that the United States is drifting dangerously towards a "absolutist and simplistic" view of the world.

Patten was attending an informal meeting of EU foreign ministers when his hard-hitting interview with The Guardian newspaper hit the streets in London, quoting him as saying that Europeans must speak up and stop Washington from going into "unilateralist overdrive."

"The newspaper faithfully recorded views that I've been expressing in public and private for some months about multilateralism, and my concerns at voices in the United States, in the academic community and in the political community in Washington, which seem to assert that multilateralism is somehow a threat to sovereignty," he told reporters.

"It's an argument about which I feel very strongly," he said.

Political analysts said the opinions are broadly shared by EU leaders, who were quick to support President George W. Bush after the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks, but were put off by his State of the Union remarks on Jan. 29 about an "axis of evil" linking Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

But coming from Patten they carried extra weight, given the respect that the one-time British Conservative minister enjoys among Americans, who remember his stint as Hong Kong's last British governor when he defied China with democratic reforms.

French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine, who expressed similar views about US policy earlier in the week, as did his prime minister Lionel Jospin, said he heard no one in Caceres criticize Patten for his opinions.

"We're not setting ourselves apart for the pleasure of it... It's unfortunate that we have to raise the tone (with Washington), but we have to do it," Vedrine said.

In the interview, Patten referred to the United States and Europe in metaphors, saying: "Gulliver can't go it alone, and I don't think it's helpful if we regard ourselves as so Lilliputian that we can't speak up and say it." *AFP*

Prime suspect behind attack in Calcutta arrested in Dubai

NEW DELHI—The prime suspect behind an attack on the American center in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta was arrested in Dubai and extradited to India on Saturday, officials said.

Aftab Ansari, alias Farhan Malik, had claimed responsibility for the attack on the American Center in Calcutta on Jan. 22, in a telephone call from Dubai.

In the attack, gunmen on motorcycles opened fire on guards at the center, killing five people.

Ansari was taken from New Delhi's international airport to the headquarters of the Central Bureau of Investigation on Saturday, where he was being held for questioning.

He was arrested on Jan. 23 by the Dubai authorities, along with another suspect, Rajender Kumar, who has also been extradited, the ministry for external affairs (MEA) said.

In a statement the MEA said the Indian government greatly appreciated the support of the authorities in Dubai and the United Arab Emirates for its "exceptional gesture to fight international terrorism."

S.M. Abhyankar, an MEA official said Ansari was found with a Pakistani passport and it was "absolutely" certain that he had close links with Pakistan.

India accused Ansari of being linked to the Pakistani secret service, Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI), and the Harkat-ul-Jihad Islami, a Pakistan-based militant outfit fighting Indian rule in Kashmir.

"Aftab Ansari is wanted for complicity in other criminal acts committed at the behest of terrorist organizations based in Pakistan," the statement said.

Central Bureau of Investigation's director P.C. Sharma said the detention of the accused by the UAE authorities was carried out on the basis of evidence presented by Indian officials.

He said Ansari had been in close contact with Omar Shaikh, leader of Pakistani-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad, which is one of the main suspects behind the kidnapping of American journalist Daniel Pearl of the Wall Street Journal.

Earlier in the day, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told an election rally in Meerut in Uttar Pradesh the news of Ansari's arrest and extradition.

He mentioned the arrest during his speech while blaming Pakistan for continuing to support terrorists targeting India.

"Pakistan's ruler, Pervez Musharraf, says India should hold talks with Pakistan. It is only possible if there is a change in Pakistan's attitude and it stops backing terrorists targeting India," Vajpayee said. ***AFP***

INDIAN army soldiers go on patrol in front of a mosque after a siege at Tutigund village, 75 km north of Srinagar Feb. 9. Security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir shot dead two militants of an outlawed, Pakistan-based group holed up in a mosque to end a tense, 18-hour siege.

REUTERS

G7 says world has gotten back on its feet

OTTAWA—Group of Seven powers blew hard on the faint sparks of a global recovery at their weekend meeting here but received some criticism for failing fully to address the risks.

After being huddled away in a retreat by the iced-over Lake Meech in Quebec, policymakers released a joint statement that accentuated the positive and made no mention of their frustration with recession-hit Japan.

"Since we last met, prospects have generally strengthened for resumed expansion in our economies, although risks remain," it said.

"We remain vigilant and will each continue to take appropriate steps to promote a strong and sustained recovery."

Robert Scott, analyst at the Washington-based Economic Policy Institute, said he was struck by Japan's exclusion from the final statement, which he said was too bullish.

"I think it is remarkable because Japan clearly remains mired in a recession and clearly has structural problems," Scott said.

"I think that what they are trying to do is jawbone the economy upwards," he added. "It is remarkable that they have chosen to emphasize all of the positives and none of the negative risks."

The G7 finance ministers and central bank chiefs from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States noted strong growth in Russia and progress in Argentina.

But no concrete action was outlined to help the world economy, Scott said. "I think something stronger may be required here in terms of a coordinated policy in the G7," he said.

US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill summed up the mood. "I think the world has gotten its feet underneath itself again," he said.

But Japan, still in the doldrums after 11 years of stagnation and with a banking sector buried in $277 billion of bad debt, remained a deep concern.

"It is very important that Japan be an engine of growth for the world economy. It is up to them to do that," O'Neill said. ***AFP***

Cambodia vows to proceed with Khmer trial

PHNOM PENH—Cambodian officials on Saturday vowed to go ahead with a trial of the murderous Khmer Rouge's surviving leaders despite the United Nations' shock withdrawal from the proceedings.

The UN stunned the Cambodian government, diplomats and observers late Friday by pulling out of preparations for the trial, which is aimed at bringing justice to the survivors of the brutal regime.

But they stressed that a trial could still go ahead without UN involvement.

Sok An, the Cambodian minister in charge of UN negotiations, also said the government would press on with negotiations with the UN to stage the trial.

"I regret what he (Corell) has said. From the Cambodian government side the doors are still open," he said.

Sok An's spokesperson said earlier Saturday the trial would proceed.

"The Cambodian government's position on a Khmer Rouge trial has not changed," the spokesperson said. "We are going ahead with our Khmer Rouge trial law."

The UN's legal counsel, Hans Corell, said the decision to withdraw was made because Cambodian laws did not guarantee the independence, impartiality and objectivity of a special court to be set up to conduct the trial.

Corell said the decision was made by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and did not involve the Security Council.

Cambodian secretary of state for information Khieu Kanharaith said Cambodia had three options for conducting the trial.

One was a UN-backed trial, another a trial with international assistance, and a third a tribunal staged solely by Cambodia.

"We are waiting to see the position from our foreign friends with the matter before making further comment," he said. ***AFP***

REUTERS

MALAYSIA TO WHIP ILLEGALS
Prison guards demonstrate on an effigy how prisoners are whipped at the Sungai Buloh prison near Kuala Lumpur in this April 26, 1997 photo. Malaysia said on Tuesday it will whip illegal immigrants and their employers to deal with the growing problem of foreign aliens.

Israeli woman shot dead

NABLUS, West Bank—Israeli troops entered this West Bank city and exchanged heavy fire with Palestinians early Sunday, hours after a roadside shooting by a Palestinian killed an Israeli woman and injured her son.

The soldiers in tanks and armored personnel carriers moved into Nablus around 4 a.m. and gun battles soon erupted. Seven Palestinians were wounded, two seriously, Palestinian hospital officials said. An Israeli attack helicopter circled overhead but did not open fire.

The Israeli military said its forces searched buildings, arresting several Palestinians.

Three Palestinian brothers were arrested, though they were not known to be militants, Palestinian neighbors said. A fourth brother, whom the Israelis did not find, belongs to the Al Aqsa Brigades, a militia that is part of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, the neighbors said.

The Israeli troops also took up positions around the Askar refugee camp in the city but did not go in, witnesses said. Tanks broke through the doors of two nearby metal workshops and soldiers searched them, Palestinian witnesses said.

The workshops belong to a man who is close to the militant Hamas group, Palestinian sources said. Hamas announced recently that it has succeeded in manufacturing ground-to-ground rockets and showed them on a video film made available to the media. Last week, Israeli soldiers seized some of the rockets, which were hidden under a load of vegetables on a Palestinian truck.

The army spent about two hours in Nablus on Sunday and withdrew before dawn, the military and witnesses said. ***AP***

UK's Margaret mourned, but not on Di scale

MARGARET

LONDON—The British flag fluttered at half-mast over Buckingham Palace Saturday, but the death of Princess Margaret produced none of the public displays of grief that marked the passing of Princess Diana in 1997.

A few bouquets of flowers were pinned to the gates of the palace, and around 20 at Margaret's nearby residence of Kensington Palace, accompanied by messages of sorrow.

But the mood was nothing to match the grief and sense of shock that marked the death of Diana, the ex-wife of Margaret's nephew Prince Charles, in a car crash in Paris in 1997.

Perhaps it was because Margaret's socializing heyday had been four decades earlier in the more sedate 1950s, before many of today's Britons had even been born.

Also, Diana died accidentally at the young age of 36, while Margaret died at 71 after a long succession of health problems.

Around 300 people gathered outside Kensington Palace to see the hearse, carrying the body of the princess, arrive from the private King Edward VII hospital in central London, where she died at 6:30 a.m.

The coffin was draped with Margaret's blue and crimson personal standard and crowned with an arrangement of white lilies. ***AFP***

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ANOTHER 'KURATONG'?

Gang's kin cry rubout

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYAMBANG, Pangasinan—Rubout or shootout?

This query was posed by relatives of the 12 slain suspected members of a robbery-kidnapping syndicate after they discovered that most of the victims bore bullet wounds in their heads.

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They said the suspects were shot mostly in the head, either in the back of the head or in the face.

The slain suspects were identified as former Marine Sgt. and alleged gang leader Rolando Franco, 45, of Bayambang town; his brother Randy Franco, 27; Dante Ngawid, 45, said to be a former member of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army; Juanito Villar, 37, of Baguio City; Jun Mendez; Bong Villafando; Gary Santos; Laurence Soriano Salangao; Jolito Ponguis; Silverio Gorio; and Randy Raquino. Police have yet to identify one of the slain men.

But in Lingayen town, Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pangasinan police director, dismissed the relatives' accusations and said the Friday encounter was a "perfectly executed plan."

"It was the end of the road for them. They had (committed) enough crime. Enough is enough," he said.

'Perfectly executed plan . . .'

The slain men's bodies were lined up in a garage of the hospital from Friday night until Saturday morning when the autopsy was done.

Nicanor Miguel, the hospital's director, said they were forced to put the bodies in the garage because there was not enough space at the hospital's morgue.

He said the bodies were covered with blankets and candles were lighted beside them.

Mendoza said the group was responsible for a series of robbery-holdup incidents in Pangasinan. The group was said to be operating also in La Union and Tarlac.

He said two slain members of the group were involved in the kidnapping of Dagupan City hotel owner Charlie Ngo last year.

Surveillance

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Mendoza said the Bagis Gang members were mistaken for members of the "Bonnet Gang" because the Bagis Gang members also wore bonnets and ski masks in their kidnapping operations.

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He added that the Pangasinan police received a tip, through a gang member, that the group was at a safe house in Baguio City last week.

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Police checkpoints

"There were eight men in the van (when it left Baguio), but four others (were picked up) in Carmen (Rosales, Pangasinan). They stopped in Sto. Tomas (a town before Alcala) to prepare their firearms. They continued travelling until they reached the police checkpoints in Laoac Village," Mendoza said.

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By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

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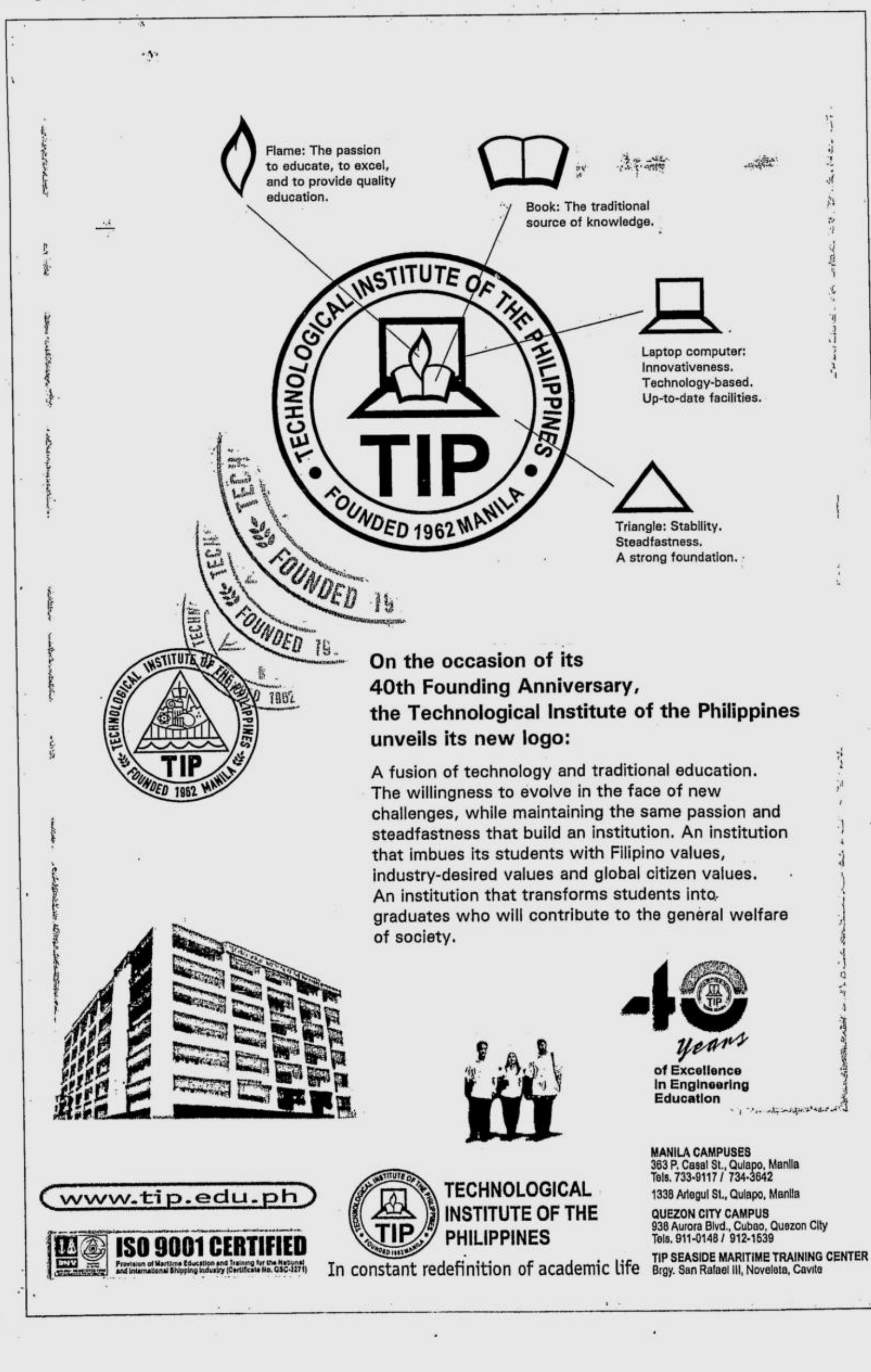

Filipinos a salty lot, says DOH study

DAVAO CITY—Consider this: The ideal salt intake for Filipinos is about two kilos per year but the Department of Health estimates that an average Filipino consumes about six kilos.

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"And even if their food is already salty, they still have to have that soy sauce which they dip their food into," Castillo said.

She said the high salt intake of Filipino is alarming because this actually contributes to diseases of the heart, kidneys and high blood pressure.

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He said the poorest sector of the population is not included in the statistics because they are unable to attend regular health examinations and follow up treatments.

Castillo said that Filipinos should limit their intake of salt if they want to protect their health. ***Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Mayor now wants radio station disenfranchised

BUTUAN CITY—Not content with her decision to close Bombo Radyo here, Mayor Daisy Plaza is taking the war against the radio station to the national level as she sought the help of Camiguin Rep. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo for its disenfranchisement.

In a press conference, Plaza said, "Congressman Romualdo is already working on it because wherever they are, they also violate, (laws) since they are not members of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas."

Plaza also said they found through the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) that Bombo Radyo has no franchise "because they attach themselves to other franchises."

"On Feb. 12, I will be in Manila to appear before a committee hearing with Representative Romualdo to discuss Bombo Radyo," Plaza said.

She also said in interviews with local radio stations that 58 congressmen had already signified support for the disenfranchisement of Bombo Radyo.

Norbert Pagaspas, Bombo Radyo local station manager, however, denied allegations that they have no franchise.

"It is self-explanatory. How can we operate without a franchise? She should investigate first because she doesn't know our organizational set-up," he said.

Pagaspas said the mayor was just showing her vindictiveness because of criticisms against her administration that had been aired in their radio programs.

Bombo Radyo Butuan got the ire of the mayor after its commentators criticized the P500,000 cost of her turnover ceremonies in June last year.

The mayor has since publicly campaigned for residents not to listen anymore to the radio station.

Plaza also filed P20-million libel charges each against the station manager and two other radio commentators of Bombo Radyo Butuan. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI31° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 10°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 20°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/11/02

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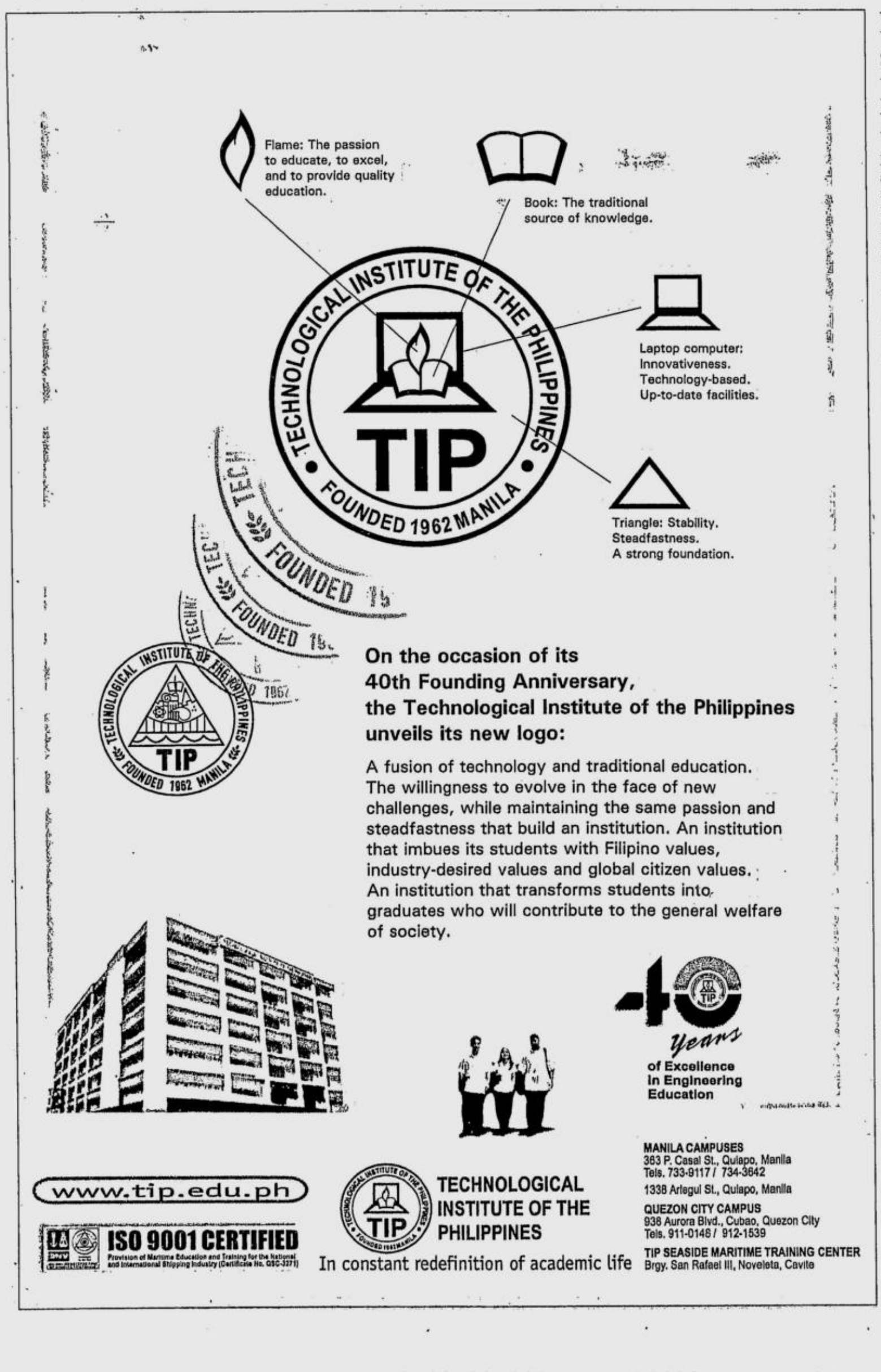

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Castillo said that Filipinos should limit their intake of salt if they want to protect their health. ***Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Mayor now wants radio station disenfranchised

BUTUAN CITY—Not content with her decision to close Bombo Radyo here, Mayor Daisy Plaza is taking the war against the radio station to the national level as she sought the help of Camiguin Rep. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo for its disenfranchisement.

In a press conference, Plaza said, "Congressman Romualdo is already working on it because wherever they are, they also violate, (laws) since they are not members of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas."

Plaza also said they found through the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) that Bombo Radyo has no franchise "because they attach themselves to other franchises."

"On Feb. 12, I will be in Manila to appear before a committee hearing with Representative Romualdo to discuss, Bombo Radyo," Plaza said.

She also said in interviews with local radio stations that 58 congressmen had already signified support for the disenfranchisement of Bombo Radyo.

Norbert Pagaspas, Bombo Radyo local station manager, however, denied allegations that they have no franchise.

"It is self-explanatory. How can we operate without a franchise? She should investigate first because she doesn't know our organizational set-up," he said.

Pagaspas said the mayor was just showing her vindictiveness because of criticisms against her administration that had been aired in their radio programs.

Bombo Radyo Butuan got the ire of the mayor after its commentators criticized the P500,000 cost of her turnover ceremonies in June last year.

The mayor has since publicly campaigned for residents not to listen anymore to the radio station.

Plaza also filed P20-million libel charges each against the station manager and two other radio commentators of Bombo Radyo Butuan. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi31° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 23° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 10°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/11/02

Hotel, not jail for rowdy Koreans

DAVAO CITY—Five Korean nationals spoiled a live concert at the jampacked Horizon Bar along Camus Extension here Thursday night when on stage, kissed the performing band's female singers and threw mugs at other bar customers.

Irked customers later beat up the Koreans.

Police said the five Koreans entered the Horizon around 9 p.m. Thursday and ordered a jug of beer.

Valentin Garcia, Horizon owner, said the Koreans, already drunk, then went up the stage and started to kiss the female singers.

Garcia said the Koreans also picked up empty mugs and threw them at some of the customers.

A fistfight ensued.

Policemen were sent to the area but the foreigners refused to go with them to the police station.

City Hall peace and order consultant George Asi arrived and reportedly tried to strike a deal between the policemen and the Koreans.

Asi said one of the Koreans, whom he considered a friend, called him up and asked for help.

But instead of bringing the Koreans to the police station, Asi drove them to the Marco Polo Hotel where the Koreans were billeted.

Asi said the Koreans were here on business.

Policemen, however, proceeded to the hotel and insisted on taking the Koreans to the station. ***Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

2 NPA rebels give up

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—After 20 years in the underground, two leaders of the New People's Army (NPA) operating in Misamis Oriental on Thursday surrendered to the government through Mayor Vicente Emano.

Michael Caculba alias Ka Yob, 42, and Lourdes Acenas-Caculba alias Ka Arlou, 34, sought Emano's help to ensure their safety.

The couple was with the NPA for 20 years but due to Ka Yob's health condition he was compelled to come down and bring with him his wife Ka Arlou.

Ka Arlou admitted that she didn't really want to surrender but had to join her husband.

Ka Yob headed the Iking Balacuit Command based in Misamis Oriental.

"We sought the help of Mayor Emano so that we could live a peaceful life and be able to seek support from the government as we start anew. We don't want to be used by the government to counter the revolution since it couldn't give us that kind of life we wanted to benefit from," Ka Arlou said. ***Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Diesel M/T	670,000	100,000	26,769	19,138
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	100,000	28,167	20,138
Gas A/T	740,000	100,000	29,565	21,138
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	100,000	28,766	20,566
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	134,000	30,764	21,994
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	130,000	29,965	21,423
Gas A/T	790,000	138,000	31,563	22,566

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Model	ESP	50% D/P	12 mos.	36 mos.	60 mos.
GL Diesel M/T	611,000	305,000	26,383	10,371	7,355
GLX Gas M/T	645,000	322,500	27,852	10,949	7,765
Diesel M/T	670,000	335,000	*27,917	11,373	8,066
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	352,500	30,442	11,967	8,487
Gas A/T	740,000	370,000	31,954	12,561	8,908
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	360,000	31,090	12,222	8,668
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	385,000	*32,083	13,071	9,270
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	375,000	*31,250	12,731	9,029
Gas A/T	790,000	395,000	*32,917	13,410	9,511

*All Plans Subject to Bank Approval

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₱7-M insurance seen motive for murder of Alona

By Tonton A. Antogop
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY---Police investigators are looking into a P7-million life insurance claim as a possible motive for the slaying of Alona Bacolod-Ecleo.

Alona was killed right after the period of contest over the policy had lapsed, according to Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG-7) regional chief Edwin Diocos.

"This could be a possible motive for her (murder)," said Diocos.

The decomposing body of Alona, 27, was found inside a garbage bag that was dumped in Barangay Coro, Dalaguete town, 85 kilometers south of this city, on Jan. 8. Her family reported her missing on Jan. 6.

Autopsy reports showed that Alona died from strangulation.

Alona's husband, cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr., 42, was tagged as the prime suspect in the killing. He was charged with parricide on Jan. 23, with his bodyguard Juryven Parado and four other unidentified men as co-conspirators.

Ecleo Jr., the supreme master of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) based in Surigao del Norte, has denied killing his wife. He has refused to cooperate with the police and is now believed to be hiding in Surigao.

Diocos could not remember the exact date when the insurance policy was issued but another police official privy to the investigation said Alona's death came after the lapse of the policy's two-year contest period.

The source said the policy was taken in 1998 with Ruben and their three children as beneficiaries.

The insurance policy was issued by Sun Life of Canada, a leading insurance firm. But Diocos said the company refused to cooperate with them regarding information on the insurance policy.

"It is like a bank that has a secrecy law," Diocos said.

Diocos refused to divulge the insurance amount. Thelma Chiong, chair of the Crusade Against Violence in Cebu, said the insurance policy was worth P7 million.

Chiong has been assisting the Bacolod family since the case was publicized. The family has accused Ruben of being responsible for her death.

Chiong said Alona's policy was taken in Manila with the assistance of a relative of Ruben.

"She (Alona) was insured twice—the first was for P2 million, the second for P5 million," Chiong revealed.

The source said an agent from Sun Life Manila already went to the CIDG headquarters last month to ask for a police report since one of Ruben's sisters (name withheld) allegedly filed a claim for the amount.

Chiong said Ben Bacolod, Alona's older brother, was inclined to believe the theory that Alona was killed for her insurance policy.

She said Ben recalled Ecleo ordering him to deposit his firearms in San Jose, Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte.

Chiong said Ben was among Ecleo's bodyguards, but he demanded Ben to deposit his firearms at the armory before they traveled back for Cebu after the New Year celebration.

The CIDG is also looking into other angles in Alona's killing. Among them is the allegation that Ecleo could have discovered a "lover" of his wife, and the possibility that the killing was related to Ecleo's alleged drug dependence.

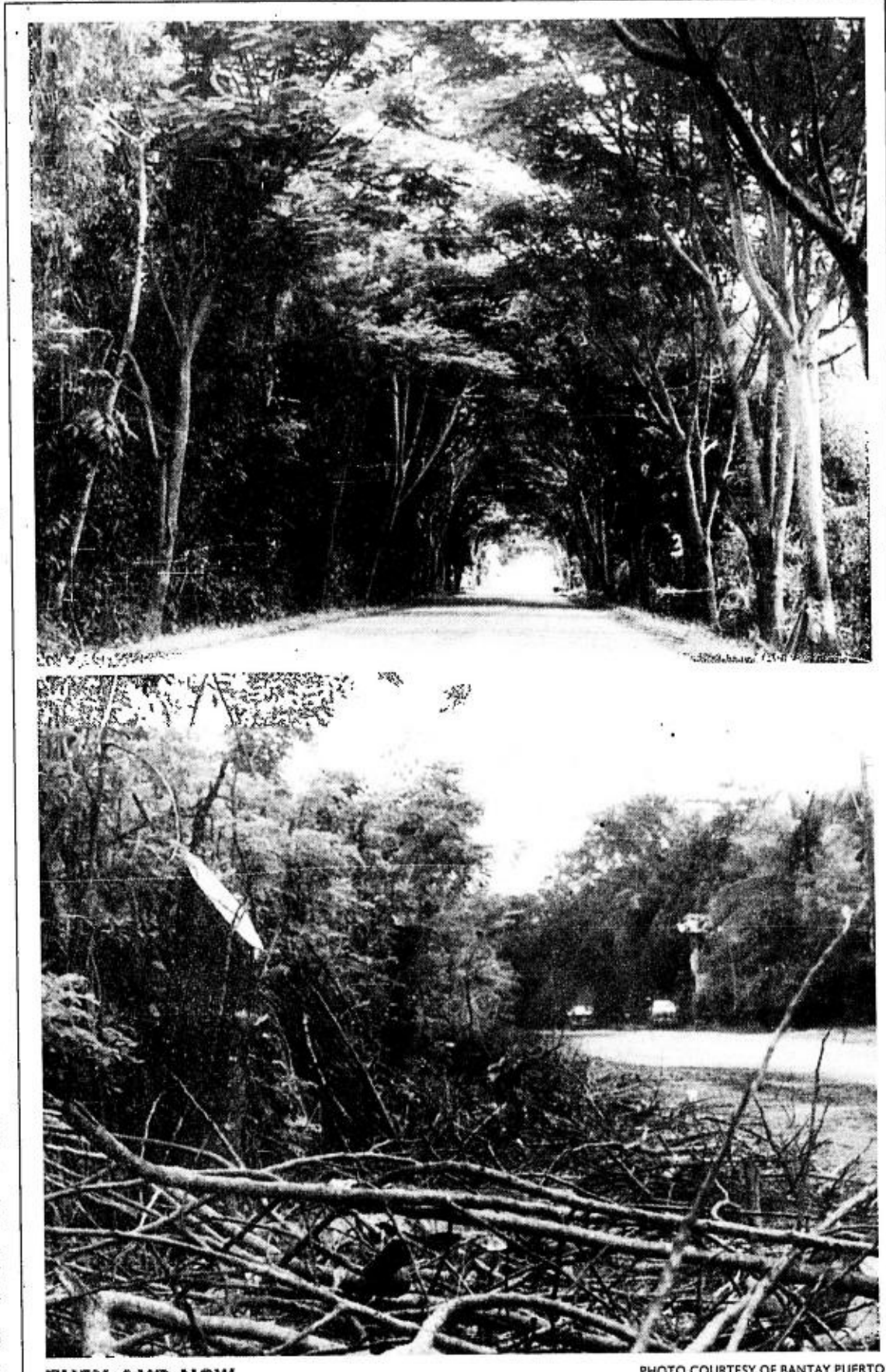

PHOTO COURTESY OF BANTAY PUERTO

THEN AND NOW
Trees started to line up a road in Puerto Princesa leading to the city's public market (photo above) and they started to make a good impression of the city that was known as the country's cleanest and greenest. But about 500 of them were felled (photo below) to make room for what incumbent city and provincial officials claim was development.

GMA attends Javier death rites today

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—President Macapagal-Arroyo is scheduled to visit this province today as a guest of honor during the commemoration of the 16th death anniversary of former Gov. Evelio Javier.

The President will lead the commemorative rites along with officials of the province led by Rep. Exequiel Javier, younger brother of the slain governor, and Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez.

In her hour-long visit, the first since she became President after the People Power II uprising early last year, Ms Macapagal is scheduled to lay a wreath at the marker of the Evelio B. Javier Freedom Park where Javier was shot on Feb. 11, 1986. She will proceed to the new provincial capitol to view the memorabilia of Javier.

The President is expected to deliver a short speech after leading groundbreaking rites for the Delegate Angel Salazar Jr. Memorial School in this town.

The 16-room educational center would cater to children with learning difficulties, physical disabilities and other special educational needs. Eight classrooms are for fast-learners, six classrooms will be for slow-learners and one classroom each will be for children who have hearing difficulties and for the mentally handicapped.

The two-story building, the sixth center in Western Visayas, will cost P12 million to build. It will be funded by the Third Elementary Education Program and with a counterpart fund from the provincial school board.

Javier, then 43, was gunned down in broad daylight on Feb. 11, 1986 by heavily armed men at the public plaza during the canvassing of votes for the snap presidential elections. Four bystanders were injured.

Despite being injured, he fled and took refuge inside the toilet of a house more than 200 meters away from the plaza. It was there where his assailants finished him off.

Cave 'rituals' puzzle police, village folk

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAGBAYAN, Bohol—Police here are puzzled over the activities of nine people who claim they are holding religious rituals inside a cave in Sitio Capitol, Barangay Poblacion but who are suspected of hunting for treasure.

The group has aroused the suspicion of residents because they visit the cave only between 8 p.m. and midnight. They go to the cave on board a van each time.

When confronted by the policemen, the suspected treasure hunters gave their names as Sgt. Rolando Claveria, 42, of Alabel, Sarangani province; Primo Dugaduga, 45, Talipapa, General Santos City; Darwin Ebrado, Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur; Joel Bocog, 38, Guihulngan, Negros Oriental; Elyrey Yucor, 24, Riverside, Butuan City; Rogelio Yucor, Butuan City; Ricky Dugaduga, 40, Alabel, Sarangani; Abeylita Datahan, 25, Riverside, Butuan City; and Regina Raciñes, Matabao, Tubigon.

Capt. Gaspar Panopio, commanding officer of the 57th Special Forces Company stationed in Poblacion, Sagbayan admitted that his men accosted the group one night on suspicion that they were communist rebels.

"There was none," Panopio said in Tagalog when asked if there was anything suspicious about the group.

He said a member of the group told the soldiers that they were merely holding nightly religious rituals.

Panopio also denied there were ex-Army soldiers in the group.

"They did not show any documents," Panopio told the INQUIRER.

A man who lived near the cave said he heard the group saying they were holding the rituals to prevent evil spirits from snatching children.

Two residents of Capitol, Regino Reñani and Danilo Dagatan, however, said they have lived in the place for a long time but have not heard of any children disappearing near the cave.

CUSTODY FIGHT LOOMS

Boy hero seen begging, but family says report nasty

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Remember Janeston "Tonton" Diaz, the 5-year-old boy who gained prominence here five years ago when he saved his two playmates from a fire?

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman had received a report that Tonton had been seen begging on streets here.

The report prompted Soliman to direct state welfare officials here to track down the burn-disfigured boy. She said the report, if validated, could force government to finally take custody of Tonton.

Tonton's face and arms were severely burned in that 1997 fire. He suffered first-degree burns in the head and chest, and underwent therapy and treatment at Baguio hospitals, financed by government officials and corporate sponsors.

Tonton's "heroism" was, however, questioned by the parents of the rescued playmates, and by the Baguio City council.

The INQUIRER tracked down Tonton on Saturday and was told by his grandfather, Mariano Diaz, that the report was intended "to destroy us again."

"Tonton had not recovered from the public trauma, from his ordeal of defending himself from people who forgot he was a child, and claimed he was a liar," lamented Diaz in Filipino. Tonton's grandfather is an employee at a small automotive repair shop near Burnham Park.

He said he was not surprised by Soliman's directive.

Soliman, who was guest at a national convention on institutional care here last Wednesday, was told that Tonton is now begging on streets.

"It was a representative of a child-care agency who brought up Tonton's case. Tonton *daw* was seen begging near Burnham Park. (Soliman) was distressed about the report," said Evelyn Lorenzo, Cordillera spokesperson of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

One of Tonton's sponsors was President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was Soliman's predecessor at the DSWD.

Ms Macapagal's Baguio coordinators had accompanied Tonton to the Philippine General Hospital for treatment under the then vice president's sponsorship, but the boy's relatives withdrew Tonton immediately from the PGH for still unknown reasons.

"We in DSWD already discussed Tonton. We decided to speak again to Tonton's guardians. And we want to have custody of the child so that we can take care of his medical needs . . . Legally, that means we have to file a case against his guardians. But we would prefer to discuss this matter with them first. Bringing this to court would take time. And the child will suffer for it," Soliman said.

"As I understand it, (Tonton's case) is very complicated because he does not even stay with his own parents. It might be better to talk (to him) first. For the good of the child, they could hand us custody of the boy, and we can ask them to sign legal documents, if that is the case."

Small town cop commended for arresting, jailing son

OROQUIETA CITY—Some good cops can be found in small towns.

A simple yet meaningful ceremony to be held this month is being prepared for a small town policeman who earned a commendation for arresting a suspect in cell phone snatching and sending that suspect to jail.

It would have been just part of the job on the part of SPO1 Peterson Bodiongan except that the suspect he arrested and sent to jail was his son.

Senior Insp. Susan Guigue, information officer of the provincial police command, said they were arranging for the holding of a ceremony this month citing the performance of Bodiongan of Tudela town.

Guigue said Bodiongan would be awarded for "a job well done" together with the police stations of Tudela and Sinacaban towns who foiled the attempt of Bodiongan's son and two companions to flee from authorities after the snatching.

Bodiongan, in his 50s, was part of an eight-man blocking force set up in Barangay Basirang of Tudela town, along the national highway, staking out for three motorcycle-riding suspects in a mobile phone snatching case in nearby Sinacaban town on the evening of Jan. 25.

He had no inkling it was his son that they were waiting for.

As the police continued to watch for passing vehicles deep into the night, a motorcycle carrying three men appeared from a distance.

The blocking force fired warning shots to no avail. The policemen gave chase to the suspects, resulting in the arrest of three of the motorcycle-riding men in Sitio Situnod of Barangay Basirang at about 11 p.m.

By then, SPO1 Bodiongan got the shock of his life when he learned that he was enforcing the law against an erring son, whom he pursued without reservation.

Arrested after the chase were John Sopapo Libradilla, 20, of Purok 4, Camague, Iligan City; Elvic Dumadag Atoz, 26, of Barangay Gumbil, Tudela; and Ericson Vega Bodiongan, 18, of Tudela.

Recovered from them were two mobile phone units. The three are now detained at the Sinacaban town jail.

"The police take no side," Bodiongan said when asked to comment on the arrest of his son. ***Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Negros wins 3rd clean, green prize

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental was elevated to the Hall of Fame on Friday for winning the cleanest and greenest province award for the third consecutive year.

Bacolod, the economic center of the province, was also adjudged the 2001 cleanest and greenest highly urbanized city for the second consecutive year, bringing it a step away from winning the Hall of Fame award.

Vice Gov. Isidro Zayco received Negros Occidental's award at Malacañang as Gov. Joseph Marañon had to stay in Bacolod for a hearing on the sugar industry. ***Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Mayor orders closure of radio stations criticizing him

CAUAYAN CITY—Mayor Caesar Dy has ordered the closure of two radio stations here for their failure to submit land conversion papers needed for the renewal of their business permits.

Dy said he has ordered the closure of dzNC Bombo Radyo-Cauayan and its sister station, dwIT Star FM, for "mocking" government laws. The radio stations are reportedly critical of the administration of Dy.

Dy said the radio stations, both located in Barangay Minante Dos, have continued to ignore letters sent by the city government although the stations' managers were given at least 15 days, including a three-day ultimatum, to comply with the requirements.

He said the establishments were required to submit either an approved land conversion paper from the Department of Agrarian Reform or an approved resolution from the city council authorizing the re-classification of the land from agricultural to commercial use.

Charmy Sabigan, dzNC Bombo Radyo station manager, said Dy has a "personal motive" in ordering the closure and described it as an "act to stifle media freedom."

She said they had not encountered any problem in securing business permits for the past five years because they were only required to secure a zoning clearance then.

"Even if we will be locked inside the station, we are ready. Let them padlock our station and we will still be doing live broadcast," she said.

Last year, Sabigan sued Dy for libel but the case was dismissed by the prosecutor's office.

The issue stemmed from Dy's statements, aired over Bombo Radyo's paid political broadcast in the May 2001 elections, accusing Sabigan of various charges.

Sabigan said they have asked Dy for reconsideration because the stations are still processing their papers.

"We have sent him (Mayor Dy) a letter for reconsideration to at least give us more time and it is up to him to disregard it or act on it," Sabigan said.

Dy, however, said there was nothing personal in his order.

"It is my duty to do what is lawful in my city. There is nothing personal about it," he said. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Poll backs GMA stance

From page A1

President, she has been bolstered by surveys showing most Filipinos back the American presence and hope it will end the long-festering Abu Sayyaf problem.

Miranda said a survey his group conducted in December found "a strong sentiment" in favor of getting US help to fight terror groups.

Details of the survey are yet to be released, but Miranda said the public was generally unmoved by opposition charges that the President was selling out the country to the Americans.

Miranda said Ms Macapagal's standing would depend greatly on the results of the joint operations.

Anticipation is strong that Philippine troops, with American help, will finally be able to rescue the remaining hostages and capture the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf hiding in the jungles of Basilan.

But Miranda warned that the President might be hurt by "the possible arrogance or tactlessness of the Americans," particularly if there are incidents of US troops brawling in bars or getting into trouble with local laws.

The first US troops have been on their best behavior, staying away from bars and nightclubs and receiving lectures on cultural sensitivity.

A political science professor at the De La Salle University said the US deployment was likely to be followed by increased aid, particularly to the poorly equipped Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The professor, who asked not to be named, said leftist protest groups allied with communist guerrillas were particularly fearful of a strengthened Philippine military, which is why they stepped up their demonstrations against the Americans.

No bystanders

The President's opening statement during her weekly press conference last Friday mimicked US President George W. Bush's warning to foreign governments: "Either you're with us or you are with the terrorists."

Ms Macapagal had said: "We're either for or against democracy, freedom and prosperity. There can be no bystanders."

Previously, Malacañang had said that opponents of the Balikatan were mainly communists.

Tiglao did not address Senator Arroyo's criticism. Asked whether the announcement was simply a case of presidential exuberance, Tiglao said: "I cannot go beyond what the President had said."

What is important, he said, is not how the President defended Balikatan but the "bottom line" of having American forces during the six-month exercise.

"The bottom line of all these Balikatan debates is entirely intended to upgrade our military capability against the Abu Sayyaf," Tiglao said.

While the depredations of the Abu Sayyaf have only affected a small part of the Philippines, their headline-grabbing abduction of foreigners, including nuns, priests and tourists, has given the entire country an image of lawlessness and chaos.

"It really is more of a perception problem that the Philippines unfortunately has right now," said Leo Venezuela, research chief of Unicapital Securities Inc.

"You say, 'Abu Sayyaf, Philippines,' they think it's the Wild, Wild West," he said.

Venezuela recalled that the sluggish Philippine stock market began rallying after the first US troops began arriving in mid-January.

"There is a very strong correlation between the events," he said.

"Crushing the Abu Sayyaf at this point . . . would definitely put the Philippines back on the investors' road map," he added.

Ms Macapagal has linked crushing the Abu Sayyaf to the country's economic prospects, saying "once our peace and order is strengthened, our progress will be swifter, our companies will grow faster, our economy will grow. Business will be more prosperous and there will be more jobs and higher pay for workers."

Mere semantics

On the question of the military exercise's terms of reference, Malacañang yesterday admitted it was no longer sure if the word "authority" would be used to describe the power to be exercised by Filipino commanders over American forces.

"I'm not sure at this time," Tiglao said.

The Philippines, on the advice of the Department of Foreign Affairs, had earlier insisted on the encompassing word "authority" even as the United States insisted on the more limited "command."

"The last time I saw, the word 'authority' would still be used. What I'm just emphasizing is that . . . it's all a semantic problem," Tiglao said.

He noted that US lawyers representing Washington went to the country this weekend to emphasize the point that only American officers can exercise authority over their military forces.

"Command and authority, even I myself am sometimes confused. It's mostly a legal point raised by the Americans not only because of their Constitution but also according to the rules and procedures of the US military," Tiglao said.

A copy of the draft TOR distributed to Palace reporters last week stated: "Nothing shall infringe on the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) Unit Commander's authority."

Asked whether the word "authority" would be retained, Tiglao said: "I'm not sure at this point but I cannot categorically say. What is clear and very important there is that no US troops would operate independently."

He said it was best to wait for the final terms which Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. and US Secretary of State Colin Powell will discuss in a teleconference tomorrow.

Tiglao, however, sought to assure the public: "It was interpreted to our advantage and to the US' satisfaction also."

Admiral Dennis Blair, commander of the US Pacific Command, had already approved the terms, he added.

Tiglao said Washington respected the country's Constitution and "it's clear that the entire exercise will be under the supervision of the AFP."

"The question there is what word would be properly used. If it's command or authority," he acknowledged. "But in other sentences in the TOR, it's clear that no US personnel can act independently."

"It's becoming a problem . . . just to comply with US semantics. That's why they were here last Saturday, I mean not the higher-ups from the US military and state department but mostly lawyers," Tiglao said. ***With a report from AFP***

PSE plans longer . . .

From page A1

everybody else trades the whole day? And some are even extending further," he said.

Since last year, the PSE has been trying to extend trading hours to recover volumes hit by an economic slump caused largely by political uncertainty and kidnappings in Metro Manila and Mindanao.

Persistent rumors of a coup against President Macapagal-Arroyo had also frightened off investors.

Ms Macapagal, who took power about a year ago in a military-backed popular uprising, has taken a series of measures to end kidnappings that have given the country an image of lawlessness and chaos.

She allowed the deployment of US troops to take part in joint operations to crush the Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom group in Western Mindanao and increased police patrols in Manila where kidnappings have been rampant.

The bold steps, coupled with easing interest rates, improved credit rating as well as rising gross domestic product growth, stable currency, all-time high foreign reserves and falling inflation, have given the stock market a fillip.

The PSE's benchmark composite index jumped by over 17 percent since Jan. 1 to a six-month high on Jan. 31 before profit-taking eased some of the gains to end Friday at 1,344.35.

'Darling'

"Our Philippine stock market is now the darling of the fund managers," said Ms Macapagal, who recently hired American public relations firm Burson-Masteller to polish up the tarnished image of the country abroad.

In another bid to woo back funds, the authorities are relaxing operating procedures for foreign stockbrokerages, most of whom bailed out last year.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the capital markets watchdog, has begun allowing foreign stockbrokerages to conduct their Philippine operations from overseas, SEC chair Lilia Bautista said.

The SEC has approved a request of a Singaporean brokerage, UOB Kay Hian Securities, to conduct trading, settlement and other activities from its head office in the city-state. ***AFP***

Gloria remark on criticisms vintage Erap

From page A1

Sayyaf, which has been identified by the United States as one of the al-Qaida terrorist networks operating in the Western world and in poor countries, into a black-or-white conflict is not only a cheap shot but also a crude recapitulation of the Bush doctrine.

Worse, it is vintage Joseph Estrada. And since Ms Macapagal is admittedly more intelligent and educated than Estrada, it is extremely disappointing that she is playing the patriotism card like a demagogue to strengthen her administration.

During Estrada's "all-out" war on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 2000, he came up with a similar proposition. Those opposing his war policy, as differentiated from pursuing negotiations as an approach toward a political settlement of the Moro separatist movement, were unpatriotic because they stood for the break-up of the territorial integrity of a unitary republic.

Estrada's war was launched to reverse the precipitous slide of his approval rating in public opinion polls. It did arrest the slide, allowing him to recover popularity.

It also bought him the support and loyalty of the Armed Forces that became the pivotal element in the survival of his administration as it was being lashed by scandals over corruption and incompetence.

Solidifying support

There is little reason to doubt that Ms Macapagal is seeking to solidify her public opinion support, and even the military's support, for a policy that has come under a heavy barrage of criticism from the nationalists, the Left and even her political adversaries who are seeking to undermine public confidence in her administration.

In this respect, she is no better than Estrada, whose view on foreign policy is less than rudimentary and determined by knee-jerk political instincts.

The flaw in her approach is that it assumes that the nationalists' and Leftists' opposition is unpatriotic.

The arguments raised by these opponents are clearly anachronistic and out of synch with the current perception of threats to national security.

But we must give them the benefit of the doubt that they are opposing the involvement of US troops in the anti-terrorist campaign—whose arena has now shifted to Basilan and Zamboanga after the collapse of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan—on the basis of their conviction, no matter how erroneously contrived.

Raising issues of sovereignty and constitutionality may be an honest expression of their concern for the national interests.

During the debates over the lopsided RP-US economic and security relations (in particular over the US military bases) in the 1950s and then again in the 1990s (when the US lease on the bases was terminated), the nationalists and the Left tended to use a similar argument. Those who did not subscribe to their point of view were either traitors to their country or were American lackeys.

This notion represented a strongly emotional argument by the ultra-nationalists and one that resorted to labeling and tagging opponents as un-Filipino.

Ms Macapagal has fallen into this trap of name-calling which the ultra-nationalist and super-patriots, who claimed to have a monopoly of love of country, had dug themselves into.

Now she has claimed for herself the sovereign right to determine the norms of patriotism, and her categorization precludes a healthy debate.

Dangerous

Reducing the debate over the Balikatan exercises and her policy of alignment with the United States in its war on transnational terrorist networks into a test of patriotism is dangerous.

It blurs the question of what safeguards should be built into the terms of reference (TOR) or the ground rules of the exercises in order that Philippine sovereignty and the Constitution will be respected.

In the context of the nature of war following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, nationalists can no longer invoke the threats trotted up in the Cold War (anti-communism) and in the 1990s (the Chinese territorial claims in the Spratlys) as the term of reference of the debate over the American deployment in the Philippines, as part of the global war on terrorism.

This context is anachronistic, and the nationalists and the Leftists need to get out of their shell that has encrusted them since the 1950s.

The President is perceived to have a more sophisticated and nuanced approach to foreign policy than Estrada, but her reduction of the conflict into a test of patriotism discloses that she is naïve and given to jingoistic and chauvinistic sloganeering.

Her approach insults the intelligence of the Filipino people who deserve a more dispassionate and informed examination of the American deployment.

She does not even possess the visionary and more sophisticated mind of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, probably our most gifted president in his grasp of the nuances of foreign policy.

Foreign policy is her father's strongest suit. She might profit by going back, for guidance and inspiration, to records of how her father conducted foreign policy with flair and substance.

Gov't troops . . .

From page A1

exercises but were warned that the Abu Sayyaf could also abduct them.

"The threats of abduction of foreign journalists are serious," said Capt. Harold Cabunoc, commander of the Army Scout Rangers in Basilan.

He said intelligence reports gathered by the military indicate that the gunmen were using civilians and children sympathetic to their cause.

In Manila, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the threat was real and was not meant to curb movements of journalists.

He said other Moro armed groups operating in the area could also try to take foreigners hostage.

"Even in Pakistan, that has become a big problem because a Wall Street reporter has been abducted," Tiglao said, referring to American Daniel Pearl, who vanished last month while exploring the dangerous underworld of Islamic militants in Pakistan's volatile southern city of Karachi. ***AFP***

The nation needs Jose Isidro Camacho

THE Pambansang Diwa ng Manggagawang Pilipino, the country's biggest labor center, and all the workers federations affiliated with it, vigorously and proudly endorse the confirmation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

He is a man of proven probity, dedication and industry.

He is the ablest economic adviser and achiever in the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo;

He enjoys the respect and admiration of the global business community and foreign financial institutions;

He brings to the office of Finance Minister decades of experience and achievements in the private financial sector;

He possesses a very clear vision of the mission of the Department of Finance.

We need him to collect more taxes and mobilize more capital investment; to transform the finance department into a dynamo of growth and progress.

Efforts to link Mr. Camacho to any scandal or conflict of interest are hollow and fraudulent because he has conducted his life and work in the highest standards of ethics and values.

His rejection by the honorable members of the Commission on Appointments will be seen as a surrender to vested interests whose goals are to impede progress and enervate the Arroyo administration.

But his confirmation will be a triumph of decency, a recognition of merits and achievements.

Confirm Jose Isidro Camacho. Confirm integrity and honesty in government.

Roberto (Bobby) M. Oca Jr.
President
Associated Workers Union

National President
Philippine Transport and General Workers Organization

President
Pambansang Diwa ng Manggagawang Pilipino

Capt. Gregorio S. Oca
President
Associated Marine Officers and Seamen's Union of the Philippines

Norberto Alensuela Sr.
President
Philippine National Union Council

Jesus B. Diamonon
President
Federated Unions of the Energy Leaders-General and Allied Services

Jesus Robleza
President
Philippine Labor Unity Movement

Pedro Tarrobago
President
Labor Alliance for National Development

Teofilo Rafols
President
National Organization of Working Men

Paquita Flores
President
National Organization of Working Women

President
National Association of Trade Unions

Jesus de Leon
President
Workers Alliances of the Philippines

Atty. Rogelio B. de Guzman
Founder and Legal Counsel
Bagong Kapisanan ng mga Mangagawa sa Philippine National Railways

Salvador A. Purisima
Executive Vice President
Federation of Industrial and Agrarian Workers

Dr. Gil Y. Gamilla
National President
Federation of Faculty in the Private Schools

President
University of Sto. Tomas Faculty Union

Efren Arranzamendez
President
Confederation of Filipino Workers

Bienvenido Perez
President
National Association of Trade Unions

Atty. Bienvenido Perez
President
CLUP

Lolita Berga
President
Confederation of Labor Organizations of the Philippines

Leonardo Sandoval
President
San Miguel Corporation Sales Force

Bonifacio Padua
President
Bagong Kapisanan ng Manggagawa sa PNR-ITF

Edgar P. Bilayon
President
MRR-ITF

Felicisimo C. Carulto
President
National Federation of Labor Unions

Commissioner Geronimo Q. Quadra
Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel
Pambansang Diwa ng Mangagawang Pilipino

Solons cautioned on impeach bids

From page A1

pending against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

But today he faces a more formidable task: answering the legal opinion of the commissioner who drafted the impeachment provisions of the Constitution.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, 1986 Constitutional Commission member Regalado Maambong said it would be unconstitutional to "give due course" to the second complaint filed against Desierto by Moreno, Francisco and 14 others.

"The Moreno complaint definitely comes within the constitutional ban forbidding the filing of more than one complaint against an impeachable government official within the same year," he said.

A former trial court judge, Maambong drafted the impeachment provisions along with two other legal luminaries, Florenz D. Regalado and Hilario Davide Jr., now the Chief Justice.

Maambong said a reading of the records of the ConCom would lead "to the inescapable conclusion that the phrase, 'shall be initiated,' refers to the filing of the verified complaint (with the House of Representatives) and not the filing of the Articles of Impeachment with the Senate."

Maambong explained that there were three steps undertaken in the impeachment process—initiation, committee deliberation and action of the House.

"The initiation of the impeachment should not be confused with committee deliberations and action of the House. It is the initiation or filing of a verified complaint accompanied by a resolution of endorsement one after the other within a year period which is prohibited by the Constitution," he said.

According to the records of the ConCom deliberations on July 28 and 29, 1986, the present provisions on impeachment were based on proposals of Maambong, Regalado and Davide.

But the provision that "no impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year" in Section 3, paragraph 5, Article 11 of the 1987 Constitution was copied verbatim from Maambong's proposal.

Maambong said none of the other proposals contained the provision, which was also not included in the 1935 and 1973 Constitutions. He said the proposal was copied from the Rules of the US House of Representatives.

In a letter addressed to Desierto, Maambong reiterated his argument before the ConCom that the "initiation starts with the filing of the complaint."

He said it was not the "body (House)" that initiates it.

"It only approves or disapproves the resolution. So on that score, probably the Committee on Style could help in rearranging these words because we have to be very technical about this," he told ConCom delegates.

In line with his position, that "initiation" starts with the filing of the verified complaint, and not on the floor, Maambong succeeded in amending the original formulation of Section 3 (3) by deleting the word "initiate."

Thus the provision now reads: "A vote of at least one-third of all the members of the House shall be necessary either to affirm a favorable resolution with the Articles of Impeachment of the committee or to override its contrary resolution. The vote of each member shall be recorded."

He said that when the ConCom accepted the amendment to delete the word "initiate," in effect the ConCom "accepted the reality that the word 'initiate' or 'initiated' refers to the filing of the verified complaint with the resolution of endorsement."

So he said the ban actually referred to the filing of a verified complaint with the resolution of endorsement.

"It is therefore my opinion that taking cognizance of the second verified impeachment complaint contravenes the constitutional prohibition. There are legal remedies available to you. I suggest you use them," Maambong advised Desierto.

No jeopardy

Yesterday, Moreno said he didn't believe that the statements of Francisco, who is now on a collision course with De Venecia, placed the complaints in jeopardy.

"I don't think Francisco's statements undermined the impeachment complaints against Desierto," Moreno told the INQUIRER. "Francisco may have his own reasons but I am sure that the House will act on what is best for the country."

The two impeachment complaints against Desierto come to a head this week. Either of two things may happen: the House votes on the first impeachment complaint or the second impeachment complaint is transmitted to the Senate, ahead of the first complaint.

But after Francisco asked the House to investigate De Venecia for his alleged participation in the reported cover-up of the House probe into the so-called Petron scam, congressmen who were supportive of the impeachment complaint, like Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, have come to the Speaker's defense.

They assailed Francisco's credibility, raising questions whether this would affect the impeachment cases against the Ombudsman.

Smarter, luckier NGO?

From page A1

money, according to a group of coconut farmers.

"While this fortunate NGO used only saliva as equity, coconut farmers have invested sweat, blood and tears in their two-decade struggle to recover the coco levy funds, but still to no avail," said an official of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahan ng Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (PKSMMN).

The PKSMMN pushed for a deal last year to unlock P50 billion in coco levy funds invested in San Miguel Corp. and to put the money into a perpetual trust fund whose interest earnings would be used to benefit coconut farmers.

But the Presidential Commission on Good Government shot down the proposal as it pushed for the resolution of the coconut levy dispute before the Sandiganbayan.

The Supreme Court has directed the anti-graft court to issue a ruling by June on the ownership of the shares in San Miguel, United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) and other companies which were acquired with coco levy funds collected from farmers during the Marcos regime.

"Lucky are those near the pot. They are able to get what they want," said PKSSMN executive vice president Guillermo "Ka Memo" Palomera.

He was referring to the CODE-NGO, which earned P1.4 billion after winning the auction of 10-year zero-coupon bonds, also called the Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates (PEACe) that it had proposed to the government.

The group's underwriter lent the government P10.16 billion that will cost the government P35 billion after 10 years.

From its earnings, the CODE-NGO set up a perpetual trust fund that will set aside P100 million every year for poverty-alleviation projects.

Palomera said the CODE-NGO cornered the PEACe bonds "because of its deeply rooted connections to powerful persons with the Midas touch.'

He said that while the innovativeness of the CODE-NGO was commendable, "it also shows the '*tayo-tayo, sila-sila* (them versus us)' system of government."

He said this system of political patronage was no different from ousted President Joseph Estrada's "weather-weather *lang*" mentality.

The CODE-NGO served as the secretariat of civil society groups that supported the People Power revolt that installed President Macapagal-Arroyo. The group is chaired by Socorro Camacho-Reyes, sister of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

The Senate committee on finance is investigating the issuance of the PEACe bonds to the CODE-NGO amid allegations that Camacho had a hand in the deal.

Palomera said, "it is easy to conclude that if the government wants to do something favorable to a certain group it is quite easy to do."

"Is it payback time for political debts?" he asked.

Palomera also expressed concern over the appointment to the board of the UCPB and other coconut levy-funded corporations of government officials and NGO representatives with connections to the CODE-NGO.

"After successfully cornering the PEACe bonds, are they looking forward to getting their hands on the coconut levy fund?" he asked.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, February 11, 2002
Our Lady of Lourdes

1st Reading: **Is 66:10-14**
Gospel: **Jn 2:1-11**

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus was also invited to the wedding with his disciples. When all the wine provided for the celebration had been served and they had run out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to him. "They have no wine." Jesus replied, "Woman, your thoughts are not mine! My hour has not yet come." However his mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby were six stone jars meant for the ritual washing as practiced by the Jews, each jar could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them to the brim. Then Jesus said, "Now draw some out and take it to the steward." So they did.

The steward tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing from where it had come; for only the servants who had drawn the water knew. So, he called the bridegroom to tell him, "Everyone serves the best wine first and when people have drunk enough, he serves that which is ordinary. Instead you have kept the best wine until the end." This miraculous sign was the first, and Jesus performed it at Cana in Galilee. In this way he let his Glory appear and his disciples believed in him.

Commentary

A wedding is always a festive occasion; it is a sign of hope that the future will go on. What sign could be stronger than for two persons to commit themselves to each other to start a new human family, which assures the continuation of the human race for the coming years?

Jesus joins us in this feast of humanity's hope for a better tomorrow. He and his mother, with his disciples, celebrate with us the beginning of a new family. As we celebrate the feasts in the different stages and passages in our life, God bestows his grace on us and shares with us in our celebration.

The community that celebrates proclaims the presence of God in the midst of this present world—a proclamation of the better tomorrow the world looks forward to.

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GAMITIN NA ANG PONDO LABAN SA KAHIRAPAN

Salamat sa pagbenta ng tinatawag na PEACe Bonds, nagkaroon kaming mga NGOs at mga samahang maralita (POs) na tumutulong sa mahihirap ng pondong magagamit para sa aming mga proyekto. Makakatulong ang pondong ito sa pag-angat ng pamumuhay ng mga maralita . Kailangan naming magsalita upang liwanagin ang ibang isyu na maaaring mag-antala sa paggamit ng pondo namin.

"Tubong Lugaw" daw ang pondo.Malaki ang aming puhunan: ang aming buhay, isip, at gawa. Ang kapital o puhunan ay di lamang pera. Tulad ng isang lumikha ng kanta o 'software' tulad ng 'Windows', mayroong puhunan din na di pera gaya ng talino, oras, galing, at paggawa. Mayroong kaming 2,500 kasaping mga samahang maralita na may mahigit na isang milyong miyembro. Binuo ito sa pagod at hirap ng mga katulong na organizer ng mga NGO. **Ito ang aming puhunan.** Puhunan din namin ang paglikha ng konsepto ng Peace Bonds para makakuha ng pondo.

"Lutong Macao" daw ang nangyari. Dumaan sa tamang proseso ang aming mga opisyal at hindi binigyan ng pabor ninuman. Nagpasya ang Bureau of Treasury na ibenta sa isang 'auction" ang zero coupon bonds. Maaaring natalo kami sa "auction" na ito na ginagawa sa isang malinis at bukas na paraan. Sa kabutihang palad ay nanalo ang aming "bid". Hindi nawalan ng pera ang gobyerno bagkus nakatipid pa ng mga P1 bilyon sa regular na pangungutang nito. At hindi galing sa gobyerno ang perang napunta sa pondo.

Maraming masasakit na salita ang nasabi na hinggil sa isyung ito. Maging bukas sana ang isipan ninyo na walang anomalyang nangyari. Hiling naming gamitin na ang pondo dahil ang bawat minuto ay mahalaga para sa mga kapuspalad.

CAUCUS OF DEVELOPMENT NGO NETWORKS
Association of Foundation(AF) Coalition for Bicol Development(CBD) CODE-NCR Cordillera Network of NGOs and POs(CORDNET) Mindanao Coalition of Development NGOs(MINCODE) National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) National Council on Social Development(NCSD) National Secretariat for Social Action-Justice & Peace (NASSA-JP) Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA) Philippine Business for Social Progress(PBSP) Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas(PhilDHRRA) Visayas Network of Development NGOs(VISNET) and 2,500 People's Organizations, with over 1,000,000 members.

Malacañang on Bush trip: No big deal

By Carlito Pablo

NO big deal.

If US President George W. Bush skips the country during his Asian swing this month, Malacañang yesterday said it wouldn't mind.

"We don't think it's a big deal this time. It's because their support for us is very strong," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Reports had painted the Macapagal administration as supposedly burning the lines in order for Manila to be included in Bush's itinerary, which covers Japan, South Korea and China and starts on Feb. 17.

Tiglao said President Macapagal-Arroyo and US State Secretary Colin Powell discussed Bush's trip and the non-inclusion of the Philippines when the President was in New York earlier this month.

"The President said that during their meeting, when Powell visited her in New York, he was very apologetic and Powell explained that the trip was very, very rushed and tight," Tiglao said.

"It's almost down to the second," Tiglao said, to emphasize the tightness of the schedule.

The Philippines had immediately allied itself with the United States after the Sept. 11 terrorist strike. The government even raised its willingness to send troops to Afghanistan, although the offer was not entertained by the US-led international coalition.

Tiglao, however, noted that Powell had told Ms Macapagal that "he will still try" to get Bush to drop by the Philippines.

"We understand their position because Bush's trip (in Asia) was actually unscheduled," Tiglao said.

AIRPORT SECURITY: US soldiers secure the tarmac of the Zamboanga City airport after a US cargo plane was stranded on the runway when one of its engines caught fire. DENNIS SABANGAN

Labor recruiters slam new DOLE requirements

By Blanche S. Rivera and Rocky Nazareno

THE GOVERNMENT'S target to deploy one million overseas Filipino workers this year is "impossible to meet" because of more stringent laws and stiffer competition, according to labor recruiters.

The Federated Associations of Manpower Exporters Inc. (FAME) said around 600 recruitment firms were expected to close because they could not meet the new requirements set by the Department of Labor and Employment.

Loreto Soriano, FAME spokesperson, said their foreign counterparts were already looking for other countries as recruitment firms here struggle to survive.

Soriano said the intermediaries or brokers were turning their attention to countries like Indonesia and Thailand, whose workers come cheap and well trained.

He said the Philippines was expected to lose some 450,000 job opportunities because the recruitment firms could only send at least 100,000 OFWs.

"Anything we lose is gain for them (other countries)," Soriano said in an earlier interview. "The message is very clear that Philippine agencies cannot negotiate with the government."

Battle with DOLE

Recruiters led by the FAME are battling with the DOLE over the implementation of stricter rules and regulations governing the recruitment industry.

The FAME, which represents around 800 agencies, said the rules were "very cruel" as these entailed the revocation of licenses for firms that commit just one violation of recruitment laws.

The new rules, which is expected to take effect by the end of the month, also raised the capitalization requirement of agencies from P1 million to P2 million, the cash bond from P100,000 to P300,000 and the escrow account from P300,000 to P1 million.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the stringent rules should eradicate abusive agencies that feast on the blood and sweat of OFWs.

She said many recruiters, whom she called "greedy leeches," were overcharging the workers and were not offering protection when OFWs face problems with employers abroad.

Records from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showed that 75 percent of the cases pending in the agency involved overcharging by recruitment firms.

The POEA data also showed that the total collectibles by OFWs involved P81 million, but less than a third of this is reimbursed by the recruiters with their cash bond.

"But not all recruiters do that. What's 4,000 erring firms compared to 800,000 people that we send abroad every year?" Soriano countered.

"We were looking forward to incentives because the President has declared 2002 the year of the overseas employment providers, but instead we get this," he said.

The FAME is contemplating legal actions to stop the implementation of the new rules, but Sto. Tomas is standing firm on her decision, saying the Supreme Court had given the labor chief regulatory powers over labor matters.

"Between the recruiters and the workers, I will back the welfare of the workers anytime," she said.

Senate probe

The FAME has sought a Senate inquiry into the new rules.

In a letter, the group asked Senators Loren Legarda, Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Ramon Revilla to denounce the implementation of the new rules as these would substantially reduce the amount of dollar remittances of OFWs.

FAME president Alfredo Palmiery said that while his group was supporting the DOLE campaign to rid the industry of illegal and unscrupulous recruiters, "the revised rules do not actually address the problem and instead discourage the private sector from helping the government to generate more jobs for Filipinos."

"We want a Senate investigation because the DOLE failed to consider our sentiments in coming up with the new rules and did not even bother to address our concerns which we raised in a position paper," Palmiery said.

POEA lists Ten Commandments for job seekers

From page A1

verify through Tel. Nos. 722-1144 or 722-1155 if the firm has a current job order like what has been offered to them.

Make sure, too, that the person the applicant is dealing with is connected to the licensed agency as many former employees of recruitment firms continue to use the name of their former employers.

Applicants from the provinces, who constitute a large part of OFWs, should check if the agency they are dealing with has a provincial recruitment authority, according to Baldoz.

In an attempt to protect first-time applicants from the provinces, the POEA requires agencies to get an authorization to scout for applicants outside Metro Manila.

Baldoz also advised applicants to never pay more than the legitimate placement fee, which is equivalent to a month's wage. Documentation and processing costs are also legitimate fees.

POEA records show that around 75 percent of the pending cases against recruiters involved overcharging. Of the P81 million in collectibles from recruiters only about P22 million has been paid.

Baldoz said the applicants should not pay the placement and other fees without getting first an employment contract. Better to be jobless here while waiting for job offers than to be 10,000 miles away without an employment contract.

The POEA chief noted that some OFWs ended up being deported after immigration officials had discovered that they had no working visas. Thus the commandment, "Thou shalt not accept a tourist visa."

Applicants should shun fixers and avoid getting enticed by brochures and ads requiring them to reply and send money through postal offices, according to Baldoz.

She also warned against agents of training centers or travel agencies, especially if an applicant is Japan-bound.

Many of these centers training women to sing and dance for jobs in the entertainment industry are not recognized by the POEA.

The new rules and regulations to be implemented by the POEA starting this month would allow "name hires" to reduce the unnecessary role of recruitment agencies.

Name hire refers to finding employment abroad through personal contacts without going through a recruitment agency for processing.

Bags tell tales of Smokey Mountain

From page A1

are a joint venture of the Samahan ng Muling Pagkabuhay Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SMP-MPC) and the government, which provided the capital for such livelihood projects and micro-lending program.

"The bags are not just a business. It's a statement that if we try to see the value of things we throw away, we can make something out of them," Couples for Christ project consultant Bernie Cuevas told the INQUIRER during a tour of the livelihood center.

The bag-making enterprise is an attempt to get the Smokey Mountain residents away from scavenging, which they resumed doing since the San Mateo landfill closed in December 2000 and Manila's 15,000 tons of daily garbage found their way back to Tondo.

According to Fr. Ben Beltran, parish priest in the area, one child dies every week because of the mountains of garbage dumped right next to the relocation site.

The leachate (water) from the piled trash is also poisoning the rivers and the bay, he said.

Children stopped going to school because they preferred to scavenge to help their parents as Smokey Mountain showed signs of returning to the notorious dump it once was.

Micro-lending

Alarmed by the situation, President Macapagal-Arroyo promptly approved a P24-million fund spread over two years for livelihood and micro-lending programs for Smokey Mountain's 25,000 residents.

The government started releasing P1 million a month last year to the SMP-MPC, which is co-managing the fund with the Couples for Christ, to whom Fr. Beltran turned for professional assistance in implementing the project.

Gerry Padilla, chair of the CFC Office for Women, said the timing was perfect as the CFC had just established the Foundation for the Fullness of Integrity and Creation (FFIC) to support sustainable environmental programs.

Metro Manila produces at least 6,000 tons of trash every day, of which 49 percent are recyclable, 42 percent can be made into organic fertilizers, and only 9 percent has no commercial use, according to a World Bank study.

But seeing that environmental concerns alone would not get the residents involved, the CFC and SMP-MPC decided to embark on the business of making bags from newspapers, magazines and directories, which is not only environment-friendly but also profitable.

Training

Training for the bag-making started in May last year. The trainees were paid P75 a day for five days just to get the women interested in the venture. In less than a week, the project had educated at least 100 women from Smokey Mountain.

But only 35 are now active in the enterprise. They go to the GK livelihood center at 11 a.m. every day and finish at least two bags each by 4 p.m. The bagmakers are all women, with the exception of Archie, the youngest and only male in the group.

"This is better than the 8-5 work. We can make up to P300 a day if we work really hard," said 37-year-old Lucy Bedania, whose daughter also helps her do some patterns at home and is learning the trade as quickly as Lucy did.

Lucy's husband works as a welder in Pasig City and comes home only once a week. Her income from the bags sustains the family's needs during the week.

Considered the best of the crop, Lucy serves as assistant to trainer and bag designer Lulu Ocampo.

Archie, on the other hand, is still perfecting the craft. He started only in September last year and is saving up for his high school education in June. His parents could not afford to send him to school so he is working to get back to his studies.

Their works are displayed in a showroom at the livelihood center, at the Glorietta and at CFC centers nationwide. The prices of the bags range from P200 to P500, depending on the design and size.

Big market

Padilla noted a big market for bags today, especially those made from trash because countries all over the world have been consciously supporting, if they are not fascinated by, environmental crusades.

Orders from the United States and Europe were coming in, she said, but the center could not accommodate these yet because they were still fortifying their designs and the women's skills.

Most of those who buy are *balikbayans* and foreigners who take the bags with them abroad and display them at home as conversation pieces, Padilla said. One of the bags was given to a princess in Sweden during the International Lunch for Women there last December.

"We show the world how to do it, and if we can do it here in Smokey Mountain, it can be done anywhere," said Padilla. "Marketing is the key to helping the poor. There are so many who want to help."

She cited Palafox Associates, designers of the posh Rockwell Center in Makati, who designed the livelihood center and is now working on a commercial center in Smokey Mountain.

The center's showroom for the GK products was also a *pro bono* (no charge) effort by the designer of the Rustan's showroom herself, while the booth at the Glorietta was also freely given by Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

Other GK booths will soon open in all Ayala malls nationwide and at the Starmall, which is owned by Sen. Manuel Villar.

"We're proud of our work," said Loida Dehido, who helps support her eight children through bag-making. "We're happy that we can do something good enough for people like them."

A MEMBER of a livelihood and community center in Smokey Mountain cleans a newly completed bag made from recycled paper, while other finished products wait for customers. ERIK ARAZAS

A YOUNG boy scavenges for recyclable material in Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila. ERIK ARAZAS

West picked over East

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

FOR the fourth time in the 51-year history of the NBA All-Star Game, the city of Philadelphia will host today's midseason spectacle at the First Union Center.

The popular East versus West Game was previously played in the City of Brotherly Love in 1960, 1970 and 1976 in different arenas.

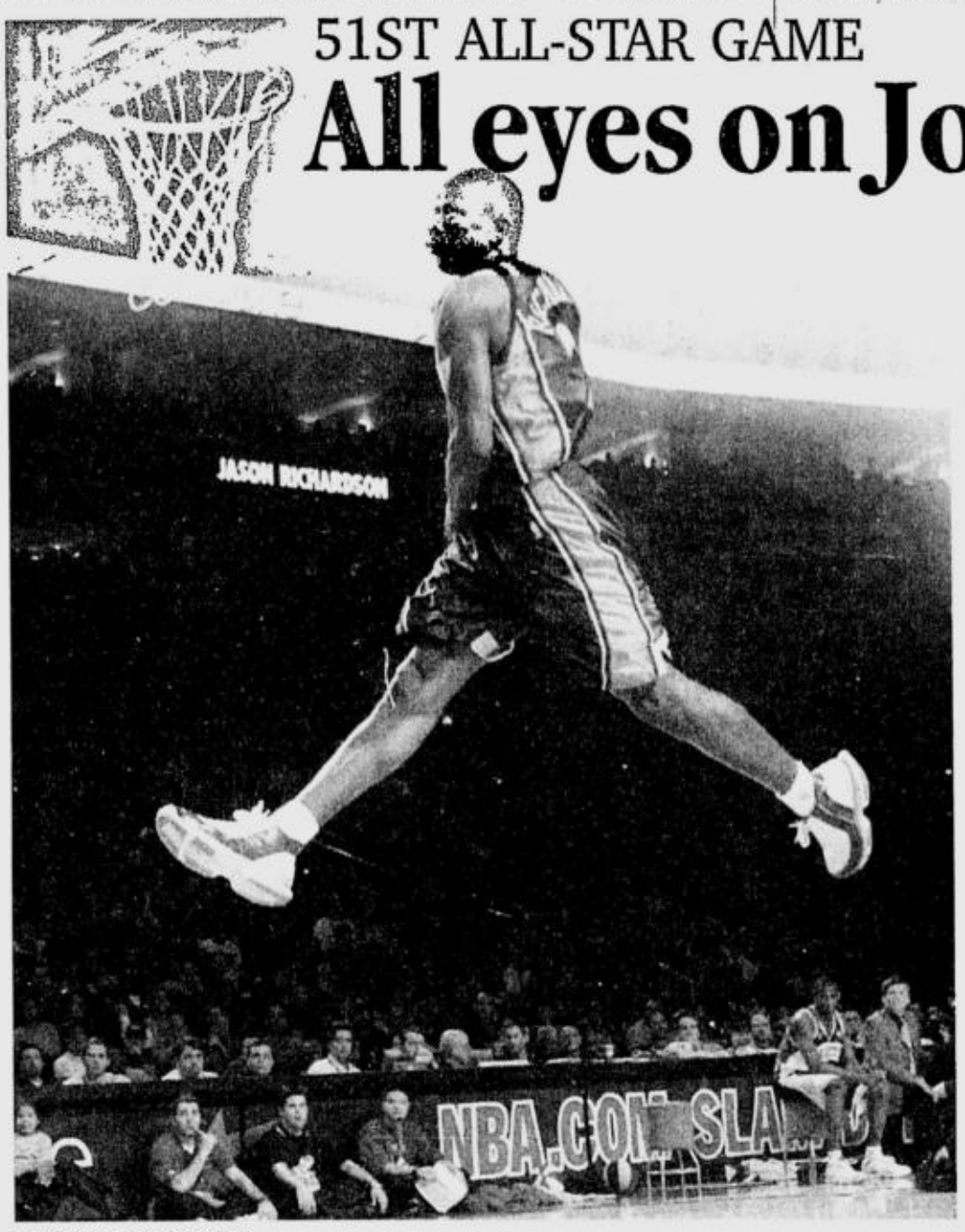
The West All-Stars are favored to beat the East All-Stars in today's encounter. Dallas mentor Don Nelson's unit is virtually an All-NBA selection, having eight men on the roster who made it to either of the three mythical all-league teams last season.

The West looks to dominate the inside with the presence of offensive-minded big men like Tim Duncan (San Antonio), Chris Webber (Sacramento), Kevin Garnett (Minnesota), Dirk Nowitzki (Dallas), Karl Malone (Utah) and late addition Elton Brand (LA Clippers).

Except for the 38-year-old Malone, Duncan and his fellow youngsters also enjoy the transition style. And it traditionally being a run-and-gun affair, the All-Star Game favors them.

Add the quickness and athleticism of the LA Lakers' Kobe Bryant and Houston's Steve Francis, the veteran leadership of Seattle's Gary Payton and the three-point marksmanship of Minnesota's Wally Szczerbiak, the West All-Stars seek to avenge last year's stunning one-point loss.

A year ago in Washington D.C., the East All-Stars, who were heavy underdogs, registered the biggest comeback in All-Star history when they erased a 21-point deficit with nine minutes left to post a 111-110 victory.



SLAM DUNK KING

Jason Richardson of the Golden State Warriors flies through the air during the Slam Dunk contest of the NBA All-Star Weekend in Philadelphia Sunday. The 6-foot-6 Richardson won. Richardson was also named MVP when he scored 26 points in leading the Rookies to a 103-97 win over the Sophomores. In the 3-point shootout, Sacramento forward Peja Stojakovic prevailed after beating Cleveland's Wesley Person in a 24-second playoff, 9-5. AP

51ST ALL-STAR GAME

All eyes on Jordan, Iverson

PHILADELPHIA—More than three years after his retirement, a rejuvenated Michael Jordan will once again highlight Sunday's (Monday in Manila) 51st NBA All-Star Game.

Jordan, 38, will lead an Eastern Conference team made up of hometown favorites Allen Iverson and Dikembe Mutombo of the Philadelphia 76ers, Antoine Walker of the Boston Celtics and Jason Kidd of the New Jersey Nets.

THE annual NBA All-Star Game will be telecast starting at 9:45 tonight on NBN-4.

The All-Star game MVP in 1988, 1996 and 1998, Jordan has a chance to make history anew as the first player to ever win the MVP award four times.

Kidd, a five-time All-Star, will start for injured Toronto Raptor Vince Carter, the top vote-getter in the fan balloting, who pulled out of Sunday's game because of a left quadricep tendon he aggravated in Thursday night's game against the Spurs.

The Western Conference roster also lost its top gun in Shaquille O'Neal, who will sit out for the second consecutive year due to an injury. O'Neal has been bothered of late by an arthritic right big toe.

Sacramento King power forward Chris Webber will take his place in the starting line-up, along with San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan, Kevin Garnett of the Minnesota Timberwolves, Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant and Steve Francis of the Houston Rockets.

The Eastern team will be coached by Byron Scott of the Nets while Don Nelson of the Dallas Mavericks coaches the Western squad.

"It is going to be a great event. It's going to be even sweeter for me because I'll be representing the entire city of Philadelphia," said Mutombo of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Iverson, along with Jordan, were no shows on media-day here Friday, preferring to bypass interviews and pay the hefty $10,000 fine instead of showing up.

Meanwhile, Iverson and Jordan, who didn't always see eye-to-eye in the respect game, are looking forward to being teammates in Sunday's All-Star game.

"I always thought that we would be the best backcourt in the world," Iverson said Saturday. "My son is 4 years old. He'll say 'You're Allen Iverson. I'm Michael Jordan.' And we play one-on-one."

Replied Jordan: "I hope Michael Jordan wins."

"Allen lives three blocks from where I live. Had I known he would not show up, I would have gone and picked him up," Mutombo said laughing.

Jordan's presence has brought a level of excitement among the players who have a great sense of admiration for what he is trying to achieve.

Bryant, the youngest all-star in NBA history in 1998, downplayed the significance of competing against Jordan.

One thing is for sure, Bryant, 23, will not try to outplay Jordan on Sunday to earn MVP honors.

AP,AFP

NCA 7-cock tilt at Big Dome

EXPLOSIVE matches are billed today (Monday), kicking off the pre-Valentine NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

To be held under the aegis of the National Cockers Association and hosted by NCA council member Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Roa, three-cock elimination fights are slated this afternoon, followed by the four-cock finals on Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Seeing action are NCA stalwarts Jorge "Nene" Araneta, Gov. Ito Ynares, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Pampanga's pride Jun and Rudy Jingco, Danding Cojuangco, the venerable James Chiongbian, former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, recent World Slasher solo champion Dicky Lim, Mario Villamor of Phoenix fame, the Madlambayan brothers, Alex and Gerry Escalona, Boy Lechon and RQP, Gerry Fevidal, engineer Pacifico Berin, Louie Cua, Philip Chiongbian, Makati Mayor Jojo Binay and Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado.

Also in the roster are Iking Araneta, Ram Lopez, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, Georgie Antonio, noted breeder Boy Jiao, Ryoichi Saito, Ruel Ricafort, Manny Co, Allan Tan, John Capinpin, Frank Berin, Rep. Rudy Albano, Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco, Patrick Puno, Jet Fernando, Boyet Joson, Dennis Roldan, Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla and Ruel Feliciano and Sons.

Completing the cast are Boy Velez, Johnny Jalandoni, Ed Ledesma, Boy Nilo Lizares, Ramon Guanzon, Felix Trebol, Mayor Vic Amante, Blandie Tolentino, Pol Estrallado, Boy Primallon, Kano Daniel, Arthur Uy and Jung-Jung Morales of Mindanao.

Derby entry submission set today

OFFICIAL entries to the annual RLB Valentine 6-Cock derby must be submitted today, Monday, Feb. 11, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The two-day cockfest, hosted by veteran gamefowl breeder Richard Bates, is set for Feb. 12 and 14 at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo are derby sponsors.

Mandaluyong Coliseum also presents the 5th UCAP/Arnis Master 7-Cock Derby on Feb. 19 and 21, to be hosted by consistent derbyist Raymond Velayo, who confirmed the participation of at least 42 entries.

Meanwhile, the Blue Blade entry for engineer Sonny Lagon topped the 4th Ucap EGT Stinger Guts and Glory 7-Cock Derby, by posting a perfect score of seven points. Tito Reyes and Mario Villamor's TR Phoenix BL was solo runner-up finisher with six points.

Elderly advice to Eric Buhain

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

JUST like former Philippine Olympic Committee president Col. Julian Malonso, I want Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain to know that I have no agenda in writing this piece. However, as a taxpayer and a longtime follower of sports, I am relaying this oft-repeated (but often unheeded) advice to the new PSC leadership, hoping that my unceasing plea for change will not fall on deaf ears again.

First of all, PSC officials should not join (at taxpayers' expense) any Philippine delegation to international and regional meets such as the Olympics, Asian and Southeast Asian games because the PSC has no personality in the International Olympic Committee. Since POC officials, who are recognized by the IOC, are already present at these sporting meets to represent the Philippines there's no need for PSC officials to be there. However, the PSC should hold accountable the National Sports Associations in the disbursements of funds which they received from the government agency. The PSC should not only hold the release of financial assistance to the non-performing NSA, but should file the corresponding charges as well against the erring association. Also suggested and considered vital for the PSC's survival, growth and future success are:

1. PSC officials should be men and women of good moral character who believe in the objectives of the Olympic movement. They should serve as role models and set the example for others to follow.

2. The PSC should stop graft and corruption, technical smuggling, drug abuse and sexual harassment. Officers of the agency should maintain the values and ethics of sports at all times.

3. PSC officials should work for the best interest of the athletes and coaches and respond to their needs; they should be transparent and cognizant of as wide, a constituency as possible in explaining their actions and decisions, avoiding the persistent problem of bureaucratic red tape in its various departments.

4. The PSC should encourage the promotion of a mass-based sports program in both the government and private sectors starting with the barangay level; it should work hand-in-hand with the POC in all their undertakings.

5. The PSC should not involve itself with international participation. As Malonso said in his letter to the new PSC chair: "Participation in international competitions is the concern of the Philippine Olympic Committee and the National Sports Associations. It is their duty and responsibility. If the Philippine sports commission does not involve itself in international competitions, it can not be blamed for failures."

PDI cagefest: Sports subdues Libre

GAMES SATURDAY (Feb. 16)
9 a.m.—Circulation vs Admin
10:30 a.m.—Sports vs Advertising

SPORTS proved steadier in the stretch to down Inquirer Libre, 78-75, at the resumption of the 2002 Philippine Daily Inquirer basketball tournament Saturday at the Olympia Gym in Makati City.

Jimmy Punzalan, June Navarro, Dayong Mendoza, Jake de los reyes and Arnold Galimba sparkled as coach Al Mendoza's charges notched their second straight victory.

Sports, which missed the services of power forwards Edwin Villanueva and Rey Fetalvero, opened its campaign by beating Circulation last week. Acting as Sports assistant coach is Roy Luarca

In the other game, Circulation finally barged into the win column after two unsuccessful tries by whipping Advertising, 70-61. Advertising dropped to 0-3.

Scores:

SPORTS 78—Punzalan 22, Navarro 21, Mendoza 13, Delos Reyes 9, Galimba 8, Abad 2, Cabuang 0, Cucio 0, Mangulat 0, Frias 0, Brigino 0, Buban 0.

LIBRE 75—Sabado 13, Lagman 13, Cuya 13, Sumbeling 10, Ruiz 10, Arazas 9, Rago 2, Francisco 2, Roberto 0, Alejandrino 0.

CIRCULATION 70—Valencia 30, Viray 20, Ilagan 6, Langahin 4, Baltazar 4, Templonuevo 4, Chanco 2.

ADVERTISING 61—Cruz 21, Badocdoc 11, Gatdula 10, Macawile 6, De Jesus 5, Espinosa 4, Cuaresma 0, Delgado 0.

SPORTSWATCH

US, Argentina netters advance

NEW YORK—The United States, the most successful Davis Cup nation with 31 titles, Argentina and the Czech Republic each advanced to the tournament's World Group quarterfinals, taking insurmountable 3-0 leads after the doubles portion of their first-round ties. The Americans defeated Slovakia on Saturday while Argentina topped 27-time winner Australia and the Czech Republic overcame Brazil. The five other World Group ties finished 2-1 as the Netherlands got one back against defending champion France; Spain is ahead of Morocco; Britain took the lead over Sweden; Russia has the advantage over Switzerland; and Croatia leads Germany. *AP*

Europe Olympians dominate field

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Competitors from Europe claimed all four opening day Olympic titles on Saturday and looked set to prolong their dominance throughout the entire first weekend of competition. Austrians are in the driving seat for Alpine skiing's blue riband men's downhill at the Snowbasin on Sunday and Europeans are favored to collect the lion's share of four other gold medals on offer. For a moment it looked like a stocky former inline skater from California had secured America's first gold on Saturday when Derek Parra, 31 and ranked 15th in the world, set a world record in the 5,000m men's speed skating. But he led the final standings only until Dutchman Jochem Uytdehaage, in the penultimate pairing, took to the ice. Uytdehaage, 25, the overall European champion, clocked 6min 14.66sec to better Parra's mark by more than three seconds and claim the gold. *AP*

Kelly, O'Meara, Lewis show way

SAN DIEGO—Jerry Kelly moved into position for his second win of the season, shooting a 6-under-par 66 on Torrey Pines' South Course to tie Mark O'Meara and J.L. Lewis for the third-round lead in the Buick Invitational on Saturday. Kelly's 66 was the lowest score of the week on the South Course. As an extra sideshow, a brush fire broke out not far from Torrey Pines, drawing stares from golfers and dropping a light dusting of ash on the 16th and 17th holes, which didn't affect play. John Daly shot a 68 to top group of five at 207, one stroke behind the leaders. Daly, is trying for his first top-three finish since his last tour victory, the 1995 British Open. Tiger Woods rallied for a 69 a day after nearly missing the cut with a 77, but was still six strokes back at 212. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA All-Star Game at 6 a.m. on ESPN (r – 9 p.m.) and at 9:45 p.m. on NBN 4
US NCAA - Temple vs George Washington at 10 a.m. (r) Connecticut vs St. John's at 1 p.m. on ESPN
This Week in the NBA at 12:30 p.m. on CNN
GOLF: PGA Buick Invitational, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r – 10 p.m.) on Star Sports
POOL: Rack 'Em Up - Francisco Bustamante vs Oliver Ortmann at 7 p.m. on ESPN
SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 7 a.m. and 12 noon (r) on Star Sports
Western Union World Football at 12 noon (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

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RP cyclists enter Top 10

GENTING HIGHLANDS, Malaysia—Team Philippines' Arnel Qurimit and Mercullo Ramos finally barged into the Top 10 following a courageous climb through the highlands of this premier tourist destination 1,600-meters above sea level, in the penultimate stage of the Le Tour de Langkawi.

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

PBA OPENER

Coca-Cola upends FedEx, 66-62

GAME TOMORROW (Philsports)
6 p.m—Red Bull vs Shell

By June Navarro

COCA-COLA bucked a jittery start to repulse Federal Express, 66-62, last night at the start of the Samsung PBA Governors Cup before a jampacked crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ice cold in the first half, the Tigers waxed hot in the last two quarters to frustrate the Express on their debut.

Reinforcements Roselle Ellis and Fred Williams took most of the scoring cudgels in that span as the Tigers broke free from a roller-coaster encounter.

Still feeling their way around, the Express couldn't handle the pressure down the stretch that spelled their doom.

Paul Alvarez and Jermaine Walker provided some fireworks at the height of the Tigers' breakaway but failed to muster enough help from the rest of the Express.

Roselle Ellis, bruising his way in the paint, unloaded 10 straight points as the Tigers slowly pulled away, 47-42, midway in the third quarter.

But Walker responded with a jumper and a dunk to put the Express back in the thick of the fight.

Before things went awry for FedEx in the third period, Jermaine Walker, Rodrick Rhodes and Paul Alvarez delivered the goods for the Express.

Walker converted a short jumper as he broke the Express' long scoreless spell and ignited a mild uprising to keep FedEx in the ebb and flow of things.

Before Walker's jumper, the Express went 0-of-9 from the field in the first five minutes of play.

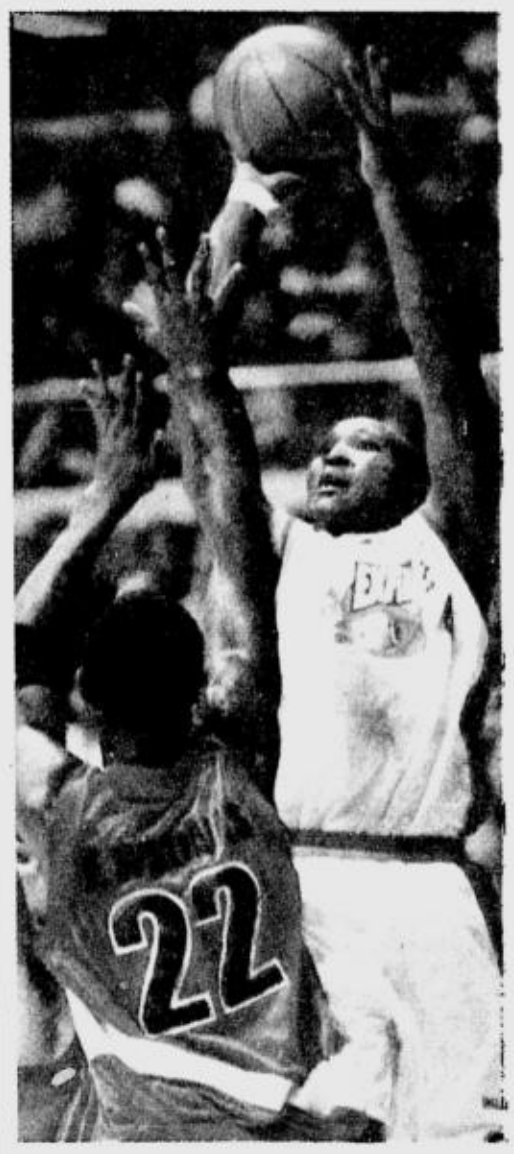
The Tigers, on the other hand, had a furious start, zooming to an 8-0 advantage before Walker and Rhodrick Rhodes put order on the Express' offensive patterns.

Scores:

COCA-COLA 66—Ellis 24, Williams 22, Abuda 5, Antonio 4, Avenido 4, Ballesteros 4, Morano 3, Bolado 0, Gamboa 0, Briones 0.

FEDEX 62—Walker 25, Alvarez 16, Rhodes 13, Codiñera 5, De Ocampo 2, Realubit 1, Arboleda 0, Pumaren 0, Babilonia 0.

Quarters: 16-20, 33-37; 48-48; 66-62



JERMAINE Walker (right) of FedEx shoots over Coca-Cola's Fred Williams during last night's opener of the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum. ROMY HOMILLADA

Benilde keeps WNCAA crown

COLLEGE of St. Benilde retained the overall championship in the Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association, beating Lyceum of the Philippines for the plum during the awarding ceremonies held over the weekend at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Lady Blazers garnered a total of 164 points as against Lyceum's 135 to keep the crown for the second straight year. The Taft-based school won the top honors by virtue of its victories in basketball, chess, swimming, table tennis and lawn tennis.

Lyceum ruled track and field and volleyball, but was nowhere in contention in other events, except in basketball, where it placed second behind College of St. Benilde.

Rizal Technological University was third with a total of 100 points. The Mandaluyong-based school was tops in badminton and placed second in chess and table tennis.

WNCAA's point system gives the champion 25 points, the runner-up 15, and the third placer 10.

Assumption College edged St. Scholasticas' College, 129-122, to win overall honors in the secondary division, while St. Scholastica ruled the midget division (92 points), with De La Salle-Zobel a far second with 66.

Miriam College, which ended third in the race for overall honors in the high school division, capped its season with a rousing victory in cheer dancing, while arch rival Assumption College settled for second. Assumption, however, topped aeroboxing to secure its grip of the overall championship.

RCPI supports Negros Slashers

THE NEGROS Slashers need not worry about money anymore. They will be backed by Radio Communications of the Philippines Inc. (RCPI) in the Metropolitan Basketball Association this season.

Gabriel Paredes, RCPI chief executive officer, and Babes Alvarez, general manager and co-owner of the Slashers, signed the memorandum of agreement on Feb. 6. Also present were MBA Commissioner Chito Loyzaga, MBA director for marketing and business Ramon Tuason, and Nando Roa, RCPI assistant vice president for marketing and sales.

"We believe that it is part of our social responsibility to promote sports," said Paredes. "And the Slashers, being one of the most competitive and popular teams in the MBA, should be an ideal vehicle toward this end."

For his part, Alvarez said: "I hope that this would be the beginning of a long term relationship between Negros and RCPI. We'll try our very best to live up to their expectations and we'll go the extra mile to give them their money's worth."

The Slashers are among the league's best teams, having captured the Southern Conference crown three times in the last four editions, missing it only in 1999. They also produced the MBA's inaugural MVP in John Ferriols.

Alvarez said with Ferriols and other stalwarts like Reynel Hugnatan and Dennis Madrid certain to be back, they hope to put up another competitive team in the first conference which starts on April 6.

What Negros will carry this season depends upon the RCPI management, and, according to Roa, they have yet to decide on the final monicker.

PSA polls tomorrow

THE PHILIPPINE Sportswriters Association will hold its election of officers tomorrow at the Music Room of the Holiday Inn Hotel.

Voting starts after the regular weekly session which promptly starts at 10:30 a.m., with Talk N'Text team manager Frankie Lim and American consultant Bill Bayno as special guests.

- **Bare eye: Tuñacao, ex-WBC champ, needs a foolproof check-up** /A24
- **Aglipay 'lying' over transfer order, cops say** /A24

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

ENTER THE DRAGONS

Dragons are "blessed" in a Chinese temple in Binondo, Manila in preparation for their welcoming of the year of the black horse, which in the Chinese calendar is Year 4699. In the Philippines, the new year will be met with firecrackers and family gatherings.

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Solons vs Metro mayors

By Christian V. Esguerra

TAGUIG Mayor Sigfrido Tinga continued to criticize Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano and private contractors for what he described as their refusal to coordinate their projects with the local government.

Tinga said he and other local executives are having problems with their congressmen who refuse to coordinate their projects with the city or municipal government.

"This is a serious concern that needs to be addressed," the Taguig mayor told reporters last week. "I know I'm not the only mayor experiencing this problem."

Valenzuela Rep. Magi Gunigundo said he himself is experiencing the same problem with Valenzuela Mayor Emmanuel Carlos, but clarified that the problem was not as serious as the one in Taguig.

This lack of coordination results in project delay, overlapping of projects or projects that eventually go to waste, Tinga said.

"It's not only the congressmen who are at issue here," he said. "Globe (Telecommunications) people, for example, just keep on digging the streets without coordinating with my office."

Cayetano, son of administration Sen. Renato Cayetano, sponsored a P25-million project that would give rise to a sports complex in a municipal property in Central Bicutan currently occupied by a basketball court, according to Tinga. He claimed Tinga's men began digging the area without coordinating with his office.

The municipal government, in turn, allegedly blocked the operation.

"Had (Cayetano) coordinated with my office, this mess could have been-prevented," he said. "It's very hard to upstage a mayor."

Cayetano denied Tinga's allegations, saying it was the mayor who has been refusing to issue permits for his projects.

As a standard operating procedure, the Department of Public Works and Highways furnished Tinga's office a list of all the projects it would carry out in Taguig, Cayetano said.

"Still, the mayor refused to issue permits," he said. "We really need to coordinate, but it's different if the mayor wants total control over all projects, even those funded by the national government."

Gunigundo said Carlos built a welcome arch at the entrance of Valenzuela on Tullahan

SOLONS/ A24

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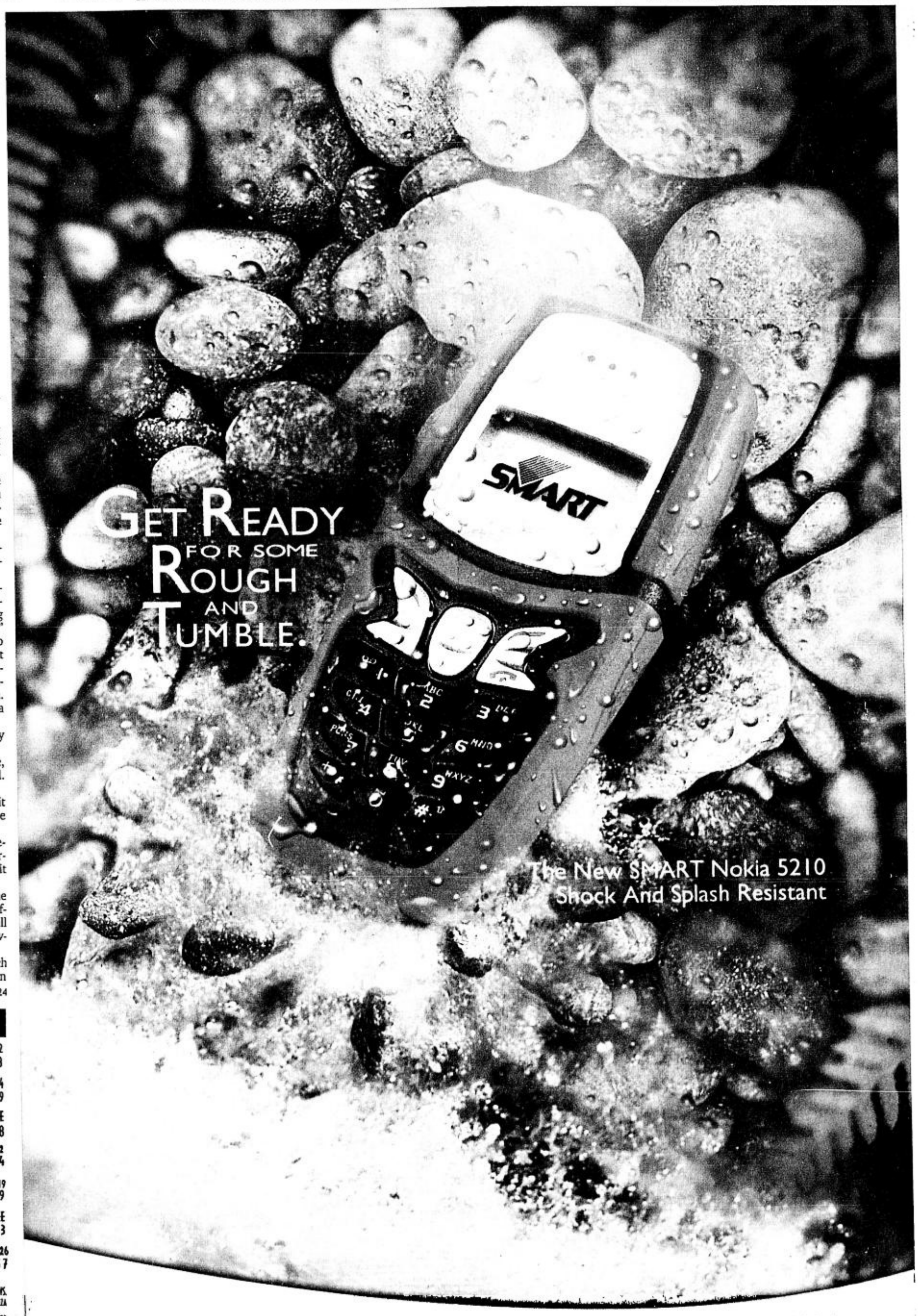

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Aglipay lying over transfer order, cops say

By Jerome Aning

THE GROUP of policemen called Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association last week scored the Metro Mania police chief, Director Edgardo Aglipay, for disobeying a National Police Commission order stopping the transfer of policemen who are tardy, absent or wear improper uniform.

SPO1 Antonio Emmanuel, MFBA vice president, said on Thursday that Aglipay was "lying" when he claimed that Napolcom vice chair and executive vice chair Rogelio Pureza never issued the order. Emmanuel showed the **Inquirer** an original copy of the order, dated Jan. 31 and issued the next day, which had the Napolcom dry seal.

Emmanuel claimed he obtained the copy from a certain Attorney Concordia, a member of Pureza's staff at the Napolcom office in Makati City, in the afternoon of Feb. 4. He said the order was faxed to the WPD in the morning, but he decided to go to the commission to get an official copy.

The MFBA said Aglipay continued to defy the Napolcom order when the general issued on Feb. 6 another directive transferring eight more city policemen to the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Most of the transferred policemen were traffic officers who were absent during the roll call formation on Dec. 27, 2001.

Pureza ordered the National Capital Regional Police Office chief and other regional police directors to stop all arbitrary transfers and to return all reassigned personnel to their original units.

The Napolcom official said other police units should never be the dumping grounds of perceived undesirables. Pureza said that due process must be followed when punishing erring lawmen.

An organization of members of Western Police District ranked senior police officer and below, the MFBA is questioning disciplinary rules that Aglipay issued automatically transferring to other units policemen who are absent, late or not in proper uniform in the morning roll call and afternoon regroupings.

The policemen are expected to obey the order first before filing protests.

Over 400 WPD policemen have been 'banished" to police units as far as Cagayan Valley and Mindanao. The MFBA said the disciplinary rules violate the policemen's right to due process and are causing demoralization among the lawmen.

MFBA public relations officer SPO1 Virgo Villareal said that contrary to Aglipay's interpretation, a policeman's dedication to duty is not measured by his perfect attendance in formations.

"A policeman's dedication is measured by the results of his work and the sacrifices he endures to fulfill his duties," Villareal said. "Just because the policeman is never absent or late in the formation is not an assurance that he goes to work everyday, does his job well and isn't corrupt."

Tuñacao, ex–WBC champ, needs a foolproof check-up

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

PORNCHAI Sishpraprom, a deaf-mute from Thailand, was flown to Cebu and was paid $1,000 to give former world flyweight boxing champion Malcolm Tuñacao a worthy test.

The fight was the main event in a big card featuring two Philippine title defenses at the Waterfront Hotel on Friday.

Pornchai flew back to Bangkok on Saturday with his full fee.

But doubts about Tuñacao's ability to again go for a world boxing title have remained.

Tuñacao, who has moved up to the 115-pound division, landed big combinations. But he failed to nail down his foe who did not come to fight, just to survive.

Tuñacao was declared winner by technical knockout in the sixth round.

Based on the official result, it was a stoppage, with the unorthodox Thai visitor quitting.

But, in truth, Porcnhai did not give up.

His manager simply ordered him to quit.

***

Your reporter here was among those who had been lured to ringside Friday night.

I was supposed to take a close look and see if Tuñacao would be worth pitting against Gerry Peñalosa, who is himself raring to get another crack at a world crown.

Sorry, but based on his last outing, Tuñacao is not even half ready for Peñalosa, much less for a bigtime world-title challenge.

Not exactly Tuñacao's fault.

"What can I do, he just refused to go down," Narong Hrengtakul, Pornchai's manager, apologized.

He wanted to beg for an assurance from Cebu promoters that he would be called in again when they again imported a boxer from Bangkok.

***

Well, Thailand will have to wait.

Porcnhai may have succeeded in displaying several strange moves in trying to stay on his feet at the height of severe bombing.

But, on the whole, his hilarious stand helped fuel suspicion that he was no better than a tuk-tuk driver who had been picked up from a busy Patpong sidewalk and bundled off to Cebu for a rush-rush fight.

Maybe Pornchai and the matchmaker of that Cebu card had crossed their signals.

Tuñacao did not need a punching back, or a headless chicken of a fighter to chase.

What Rex Wakee Salud, Tuñacao's manager, had ordered was somebody who could tag Tuñacao on the chin hard enough.

Unfortunately, Pornchai, always on the retreat, did not succeed in even grazing Tuñacao jaw.

***

There was Pone Kingpetch, Chartchai Chionoi and a bunch of other great Siamese boxers, including Kaokhur Galaxy, whose names would be remembered by the whole boxing world. They had made their king and country proud.

But not Pornchai. His name will not be remembered the way Tuñacao will always speak in awe the name of Pongsaklek Wongjonkham, his conqueror who still reigns as World Boxing Council flyweight champion.

Tuñacao was smothered by Pongsaklek after the Cebuano sensation took several crushing blows to the chin in the first round of their title clash in Pichit, Thailand last March.

At the Waterfront Hotel on Friday, the order for Pornchai was to subject Tuñacao's jaw to a severe test.

Discerning Cebu fight fans wanted to see whether or not Tuñacao's jaw had suffered serious damage. "*Baka na*-glass jaw *na*," said Nick Gionco of Today.

Well, for the record, Tuñacao appeared more hefty, muscular now in the super flyweight division. Maybe he had regained some of the old menace in his fists.

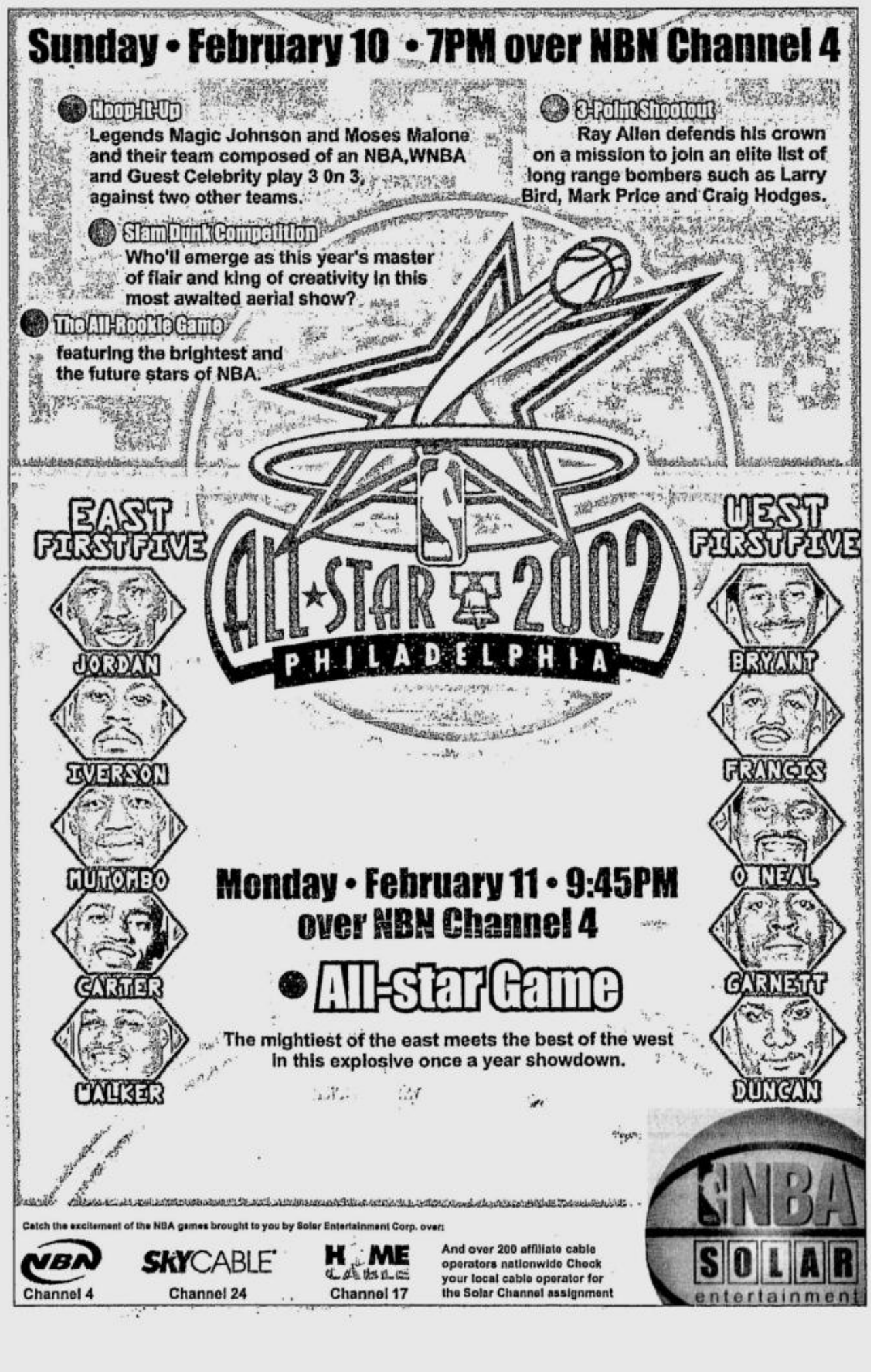
But in an effort to subject Tuñacao to a foolproof test, his manager is lining him up for an overweight rematch against RP flyweight king Randy Mangubat.

In his outing at the Casino Filipino last year where Tuñacao challenged Mangubat for the RP flyweight title, the Cebuano appeared skeletal, his frame frail as a kite's.

Even then, the prescription was for Tuñacao to move at least one division up.

Last Friday's result in Cebu failed to show if Tuñacao had taken the proper cure.

Mangubat looms as a serious, non-nonsense check-up.



Parents of 10-month baby sought

MARC Ian Molina, 10 months old, was reportedly left by his mother at the Dagat-dagatan Polymedic, 6 Lapu-lapu Avenue, Navotas, on July 17, 2001.

Social welfare workers are asking the baby's parents to go to the Department of Social Welfare and Development branch in Malolos, Bulacan and claim their son. For more information, please contact Ms Cynthia Alfonso, at the Malolos DSWD at (044) 791-1478.

METROBRIEFS

Adviser slain while sleeping in park

CIGARETTE vendor Guillermo "*Tatay* Boy" Peralta, 55, gave Joel "Gagamba," one of the many young vagabonds in Rizal Park, some paternal advice: Don't sniff solvents. Instead of thanking him, Joel, in his twenties, stabbed him while he slept in the park before dawn yesterday, said Detective Benito Cabatbat of the Western Police District. Peralta, Joel and a Richard Canila were drinking earlier when Peralta told the young man to stop sniffing solvents. Joel attacked him when he went to sleep. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Helper shot dead on the way to the wake

HELPER Alejandro V. Rivera, 37, was going to a wake Saturday night in Tondo, Manila when he was shot dead by a certain Gerry, whom he had scolded for maltreating the latter's daughter. Detective Rodolfo M. Rival of the Western Police District said about 8 p.m. Saturday, Rivera was about to board a tricycle to attend a wake when Gerry appeared and shot him twice. Rival said the suspect had gone into hiding. *Philip C. Tubeza*

P3.5 M stolen from Tondo businessman

BUSINESSMAN Manuel Galang, 45, of Tondo, Manila, lost about P3.5 million in cash to armed robbers in Makati City last Friday afternoon, police said. Galang was walking to his car parked near the corner of Salcedo and Dela Rosa streets when he was robbed. The robbers pressed a handkerchief to his face and dragged him into a car, said a report by SPO4 Abet Hizon. When he regained consciousness, he found himself in a house in northern Manila where the robbers were drinking, Galang said. They took him to a highway and released him but he did not report the incident until Saturday. Police were trying to determine why he was carrying so much money. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Tourist robbed while driving in Malate

TAIWANESE tourist Yuan Hsin Chang, 58, said she lost more than P100,000 when she dined out with friends at a seafood restaurant in Malate, Manila. Chang, who was staying at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, said she lost her Louis Vuitton wallet, which contained P1,500 as well as 70,000 Taiwanese dollars and a still undetermined amount of US dollars, while she ate at the Fishing Village Restaurant on Padre Faura Street last Saturday night, said investigators at the Western Police District. She said she left her bag on her seat when she went to the ladies room. When she returned minutes later, her bag was still there but her wallet was gone, she said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Solons vs Metro . . .

(From page A23)

Bridge on McArthur Highway, not knowing that the bridge would be upgraded in April. The bridge renovation would include the elevation of a portion of the highway, Gunigundo said.

He said this could pose a problem to container vans going to Valenzuela through the arc.

"Since there was no coordination, the arch would prove to be a waste of city hall funds," Gunigundo pointed out.

He said "it's the local governments that should coordinate with the national government regarding projects." The national government would eventually have the final say on the implementation of these projects, he said.

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All Digital Sound

	GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)	GLORIETTA 4	GREENBELT	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1	VANILLA SKY (SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND)	SHALLOW HAL (Advance Screening) (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	FROM HELL (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	VANILLA SKY (DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND)
2	KATE & LEOPOLD (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	BLACK HAWK DOWN (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	KATE & LEOPOLD (DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND)	VANILLA SKY (SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND)
3	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	VANILLA SKY (DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	KATE & LEOPOLD (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)
4	SHALLOW HAL (Advance Screening) (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	MARSHALL DICK (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	PROMISES PROMISES FEB. 14, 15, 16 - 9 PM	FROM HELL (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)
5				SHALLOW HAL (Advance Screening) (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)

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1 (DDS)	MARSHALL DICK
2 (SDDS)	THE LORD OF THE RING
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4 GOLD (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	KATE & LEOPOLD
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
8	ISANG PANAGINIP
9	REBULOSYONARYO
10	THE OTHERS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	KAULAYAW
2	
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Golden Pearl THX

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1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	KAULAYAW
3	HUSTLER

starmall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	HUSTLER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FROM HELL
5	KAULAYAW

METROPOLIS star

Tel. 850 4285

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	KAULAYAW
5	VANILLA SKY
6	FROM HELL
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA

(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1	VANILLA SKY

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.

tel 930.9515

1	
2	EARTHQUAKE
3	KAULAYAW

Spring

(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	HUSTLER
A	KAULAYAW

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	KAULAYAW
2	HUSTLER
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	BLACKHAWK DOWN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
2	
3	
4	HUSTLER
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	KAULAYAW
7 (DTS)	FROM HELL
8 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 (DOLBY)	MARSHALL DICK

Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	KAULAYAW

Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	VANILLA SKY
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	KAULAYAW
6 (DOLBY)	KATE & LEOPOLD
7 (DTS)	FROM HELL
8	HUSTLER
9	MARSHALL DICK

Commonwealth

tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	FROM HELL
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW
4	HUSTLER
5 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	REBULOSYONARYO
7 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
8	KATE & LEOPOLD

Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	KAULAYAW
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	HUSTLER
5 (SDDS)	VANILLA SKY

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	REBULOSYONARYO

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	REBULOSYONARYO

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	KAULAYAW HUSTLER

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	FROM HELL
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW

Prima

(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	KAULAYAW

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto

SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	FROM HELL
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	REBULOSYONARYO

New Divisoria Mall

DIVISORIA CINEMA

tel 244.4619

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	KAULAYAW
3	HUSTLER
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	FROM HELL

Baclaran LRT

LRT CINEMA

tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	
2	

Berma

tel 879.2029

1	KAULAYAW
2	HUSTLER

CitiMall

(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HUSTLER
2	FROM HELL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS)	KATE & LEOPOLD
3 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
4	FROM HELL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	KATE & LEOPOLD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BURLESK KING
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 METRO TOWN

TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)

1	FINAL ANSWER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
4 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HUSTLER
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW
4 (DTS)	MARSHALL DICK

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8683

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249-2558

1	FROM HELL
2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Tagaytay

tel (046) 413.0311

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Morales Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	FROM HELL
2	WOLF GIRL
3	

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	FINAL ANSWER

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	VANILLA SKY
4 (DTS ES)	SUMMER CATCH

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2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE AND LEOPOLD
4	MARSHALL DICK
5	BLACK HAWAK DOWN
6	FROM HELL
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	ISANG PANAGINIP
9	REBULOSYONARYO
10	THE OTHERS

ERMITA (536-7809 TO 12)

1	VANILLA SKY
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	THE OTHERS
4	KATE AND LEOPOLD
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7	FROM HELL

METRO EAST (#682-8103, #682-8193 #682-8199, 682-8280)

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	VANILLA SKY
3	THE OTHERS
4	KATE & LEOPOLD
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	FROM HELL
8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

NOVALICHES (935-0220 TO 31)

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	KATE AND LEOPOLD
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	FROM HELL
7	MARSHALL DICK
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

IMUS (046) 471-0100

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4	VANILLA SKY
5	FROM HELL
6	KATE & LEOPOLD

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	BUKO PANDAN

ILOILO (033) 330-9077 / 9079

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	GIRL FEVER

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	ISANG PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KATE AND LEOPOLD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	MARSHALL DICK
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	KAULAYAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	HUSTLER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	2 PISNGI NG PAG IBIG / OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	FROM HELL
ODEON-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ROBEN	KAULAYAW
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE SCORE / WOLF GIRL

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAULAYAW
REMAR	KAULAYAW
REMAR-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HUSTLER
B	KAULAYAW
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	FROM HELL
CINEMA-2	VANILLA SKY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
CINEMA-3	KAULAYAW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-6	FINAL ANSWER
CINEMA-7	HUSTLER
CINEMA-8	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	BLACK HAWKDOWN
CINEMA-12	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-14	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-15	ISANG PANAGINIP

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	SHALLOW HAL
CINEMA-4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-5	FROM HELL
CINEMA-6	VANILLA SKY

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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1	KAULAYAW
2	FROM HELL
3	VANILLA SKY
4	SHALLOW HAL
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	MARSHALL DICK
8	KATE & LEOPOLD

SM CENTERPOINT (7149522-7161416)

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	GLASS HOUSE
3	VANILLA SKY
4	MARSHALL DICK
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	SHALLOW HAL
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	FROM HELL
9	KATE & LEOPOLD
10	KAULAYAW

SM CITY FAIRVIEW (9350749)

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	FINAL ANSWER
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	VANILLA SKY
8	KATE & LEOPOLD
9	FROM HELL
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	SHALLOW HAL
12	KAULAYAW

SM CITY MANILA (5239240)

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	FROM HELL
6	VANILLA SKY
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	VANILLA SKY
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	MARSHALL DICK
12	SHALLOW HAL

SM MEGAMALL (6331901 • 6329401)

1	VANILLA SKY
2	FROM HELL
3	BLACK HAWKDOWN
4	VANILLA SKY
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	KATE & LEOPOLD
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	SHALLOW HAL
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	KAULAYAW
12	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA (9295452)

1	FROM HELL
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	KAULAYAW
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	VANILLA SKY
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	SHALLOW HAL
10	REBULOSYONARYO
11	FINAL ANSWER
12	THE OTHERS

SM SOUTHMALL (8066008 • 8065782)

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	FROM HELL
3	VANILLA SKY
4	KATE & LEOPOLD
5	KAULAYAW
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
10	SHALLOW HAL

SM CITY CEBU (2313876)

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	CORKY ROMANO
5	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY ILOILO (3209422)

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	CLOSED
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	CLOSED
8	ZOOLANDER

SM CITY PAMPANGA (7128015)

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	THE OTHERS
3	VANILLA SKY
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT (8294975)

1	SHALLOW HAL
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE (8820984)

1	KAULAYAW
2	VANILLA SKY
3	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN (2514302)

1	VANILLA SKY
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CITY DAVAO (2976998)

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ZOOLANDER
3	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	KATE & LEOPOLD

SM BICUTAN

1	
2	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3	
4	

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	
2	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3	
4	

THE PODIUM

18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

1	
2	SOON TO OPEN! 2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

What's okay . . .

From page A27

● It's okay to give your hair a rest and go back to basic Pinoy black.

I went through the spectrum of hair coloring. I've tried blonde, copper, cherry red, fire engine red, chocolate brown, violet, even blue. And now I've gone back to my natural brownish-black. It looks healthy and shiny, there's less maintenance, and I'm feeling more carefree.

Silent

● It's okay to not answer your cell phone when you don't want to.

There are days when you just don't want to connect with the outside world. I now have a need for quiet, alone time. I put my cell phone on silent, and I return calls and texts after I've personally re-charged.

● It's okay to stumble, as long as there are people who will help pick you up. Equally important is the knowledge that you have enough inner strength to want to pick yourself up.

Last year, I stumbled with my programs "Balitang Kris" and "Kris and Tell." "Game KNB" was wobbly at the onset but we hit our stride after six weeks. My home network, ABS-CBN, gave me ample opportunity to shine, and I've been blessed with people who not only believe in me but also support me 100 percent.

I prayed, I worked on improving myself. I developed connecting with my players and I strove to meet the unique expectations of a game show audience.

Now, I truly feel I have one of the best jobs in the world.

Catchy

● It's okay to like listening the music of boy bands, Barry Manilow and all the sentimental OPM love songs currently composed by the two most prolific songwriters, Ogie Alcasid (His album "A Better Man" is terrific! I love "Hanggang Ngayon," his duet with Regine Velasquez), and the incomparable tandem of Moy Ortiz and Edith Gallardo.

Moy and Edith wrote the phenomenal "Pagdating ng Panahon" for Aiza Seguerra. Now getting a lot of attention is their "Darating Ka Pala" for The Hunks.

● It's okay to pay P120 for a movie ticket if you're watching in a theater as comfortable as the two in Greenhills Theater Mall.

Since I live in New Manila, this is the most convenient place for me to watch movies. The seats are wide and a pleasure to sit on, the sound is very clear, the screen is wide, the air conditioning is cold, and the place is very fresh smelling. The restrooms are conveniently located, and they are generously stocked with toilet paper, paper towels and liquid hand soap.

Recording . . .

From page A26

Change," Ric Segreto. "The late singer's legacy to the music world."

9. "When I Met You," Apo Hiking Society. "Timeless."

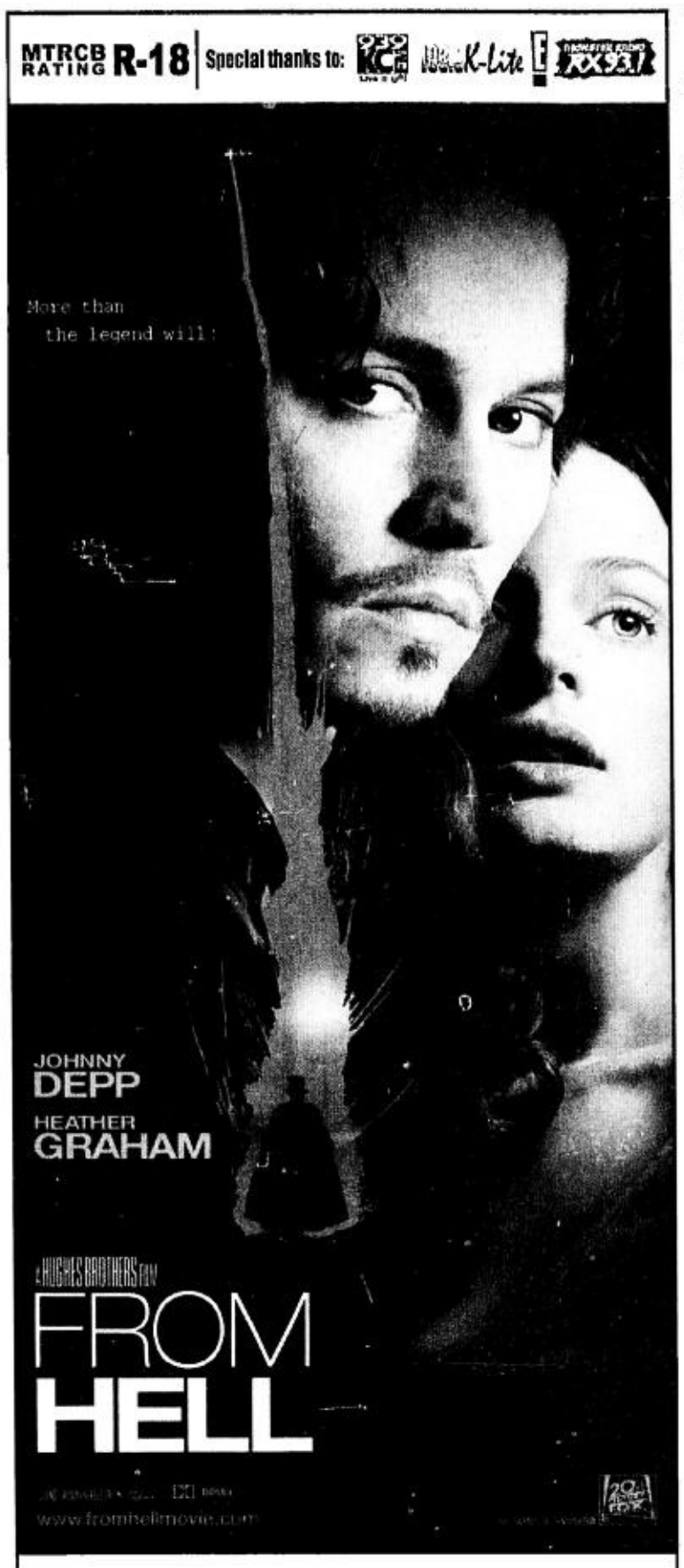
10. "Before I Let You Go," Freestyle. "Inspiring and moving lyrics based on experience."

'All About Love'

GEORGE'S Sison's Stars of Giorgio restaurant features acclaimed concert pianist Raul Sunico in a pre-Valentine dinner concert, "All About Love," on Feb.13.

The classical romantic repertoire includes Gershwin's "Three Preludes," Chopin's "Nocturne No. 5" and "Etude in AB Op. 25," Debussy's "Claire de Lune," love songs like "You and I" and "Summer of '42," Filipino classics like "Usahay" and "Hanggang sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," and a medley of love songs from Broadway musicals.

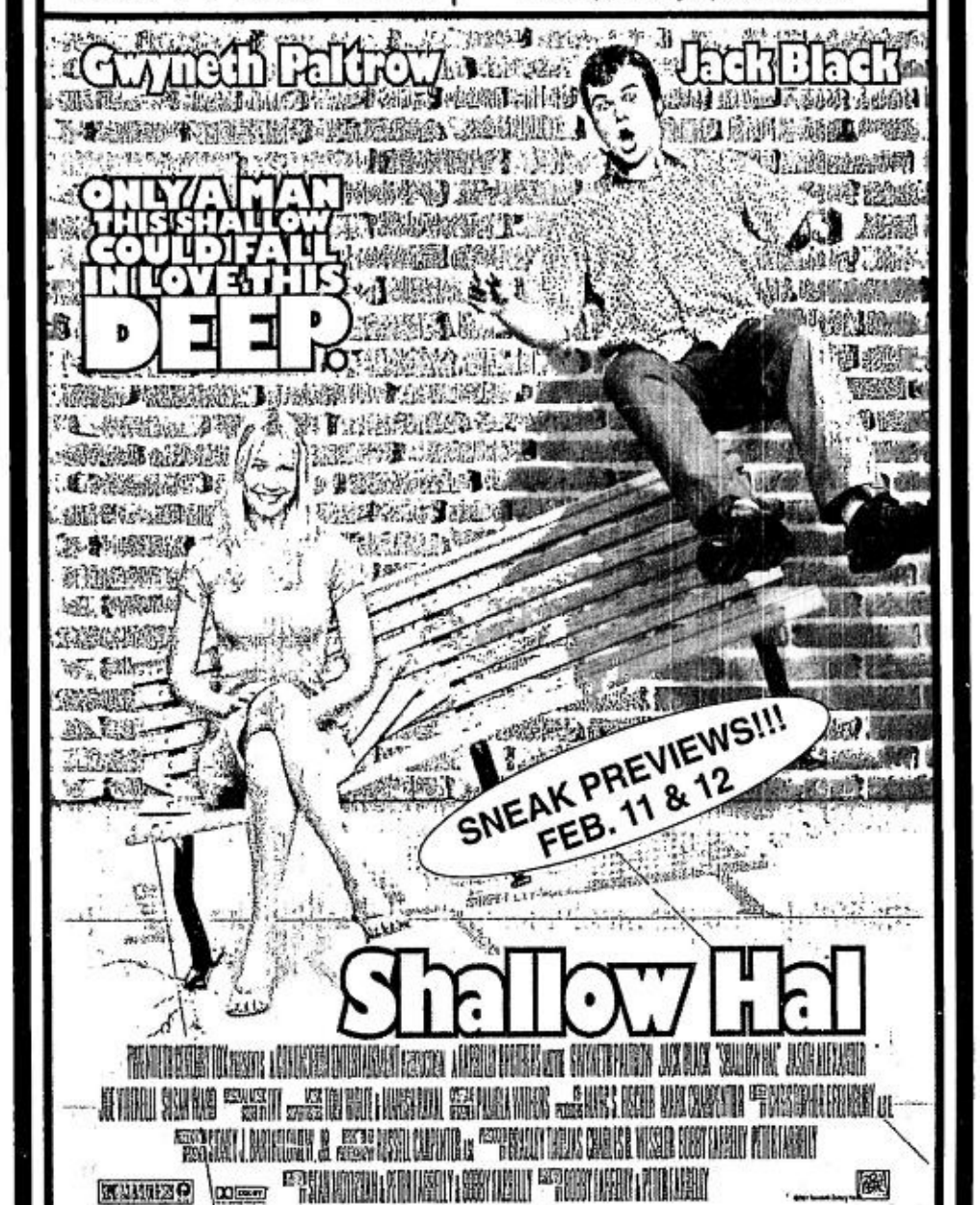
Call 893-7520. Stars of Giorgio is at the Princilla bldg., 2297 Chino Roces ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City.

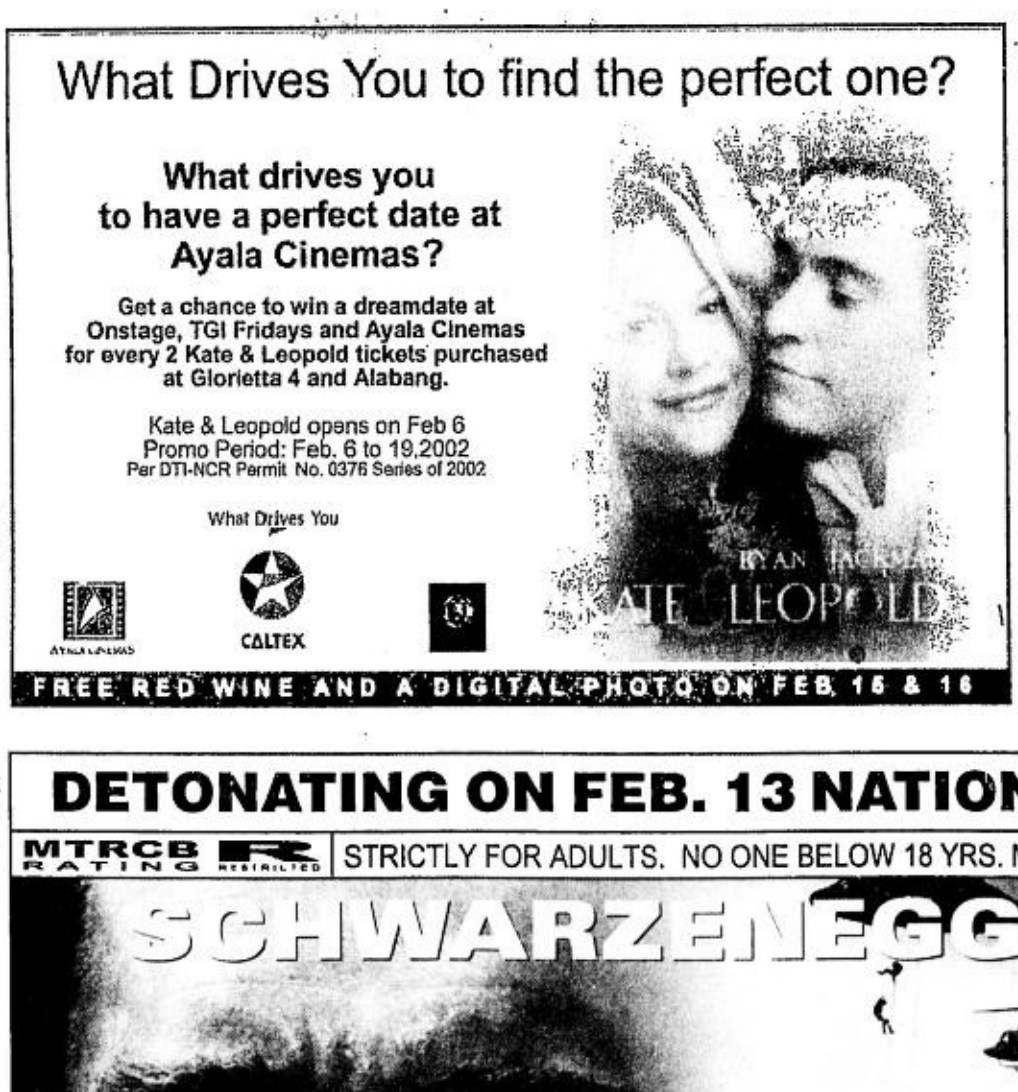


POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	KATE & LEOPOLD - GP 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	SHALLOW HAL - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
BLACK HAWK DOWN - P 13 12:55, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40	FROM HELL - R 18 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	VANILLA SKY - R 18 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10

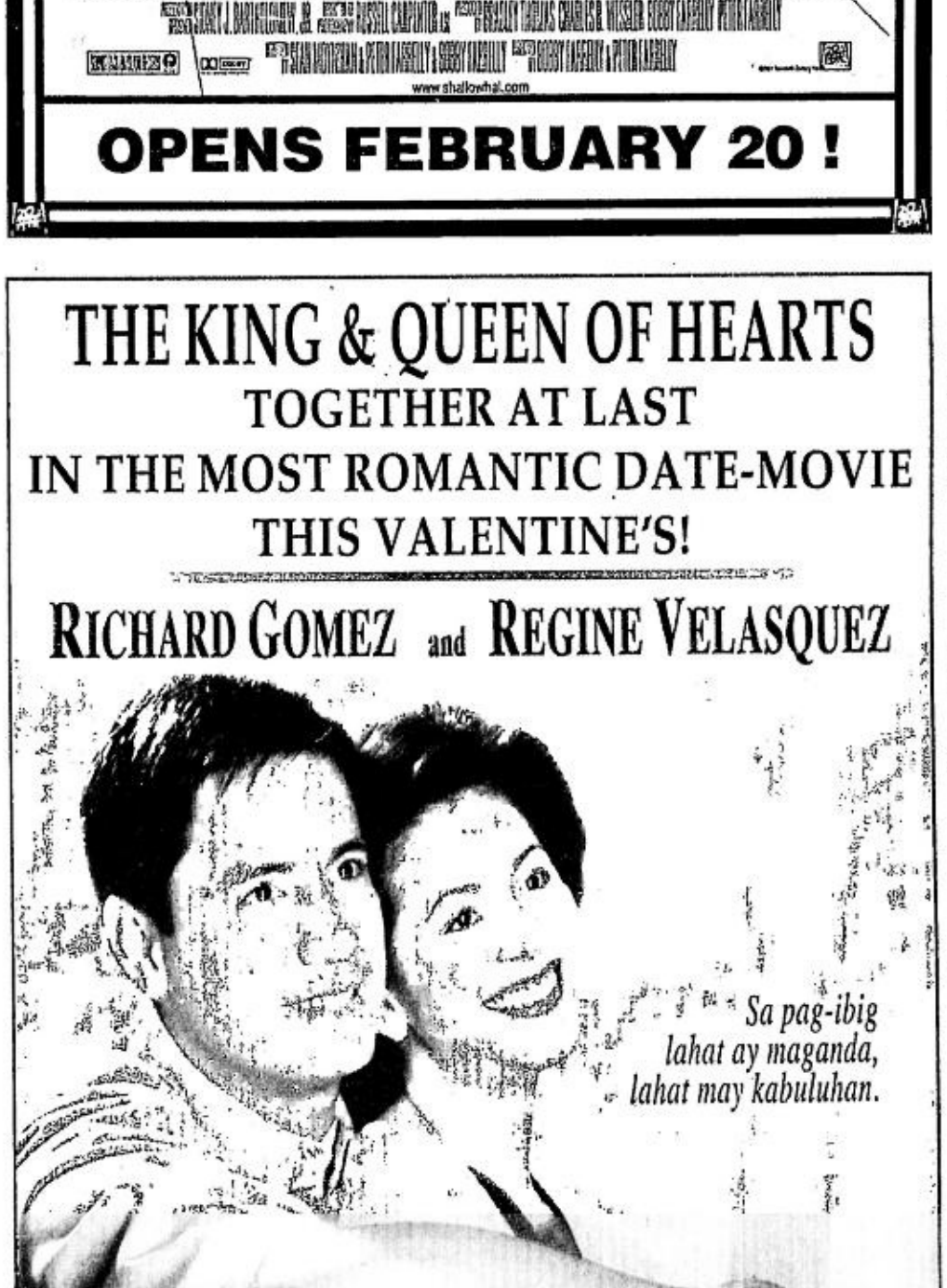
Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.



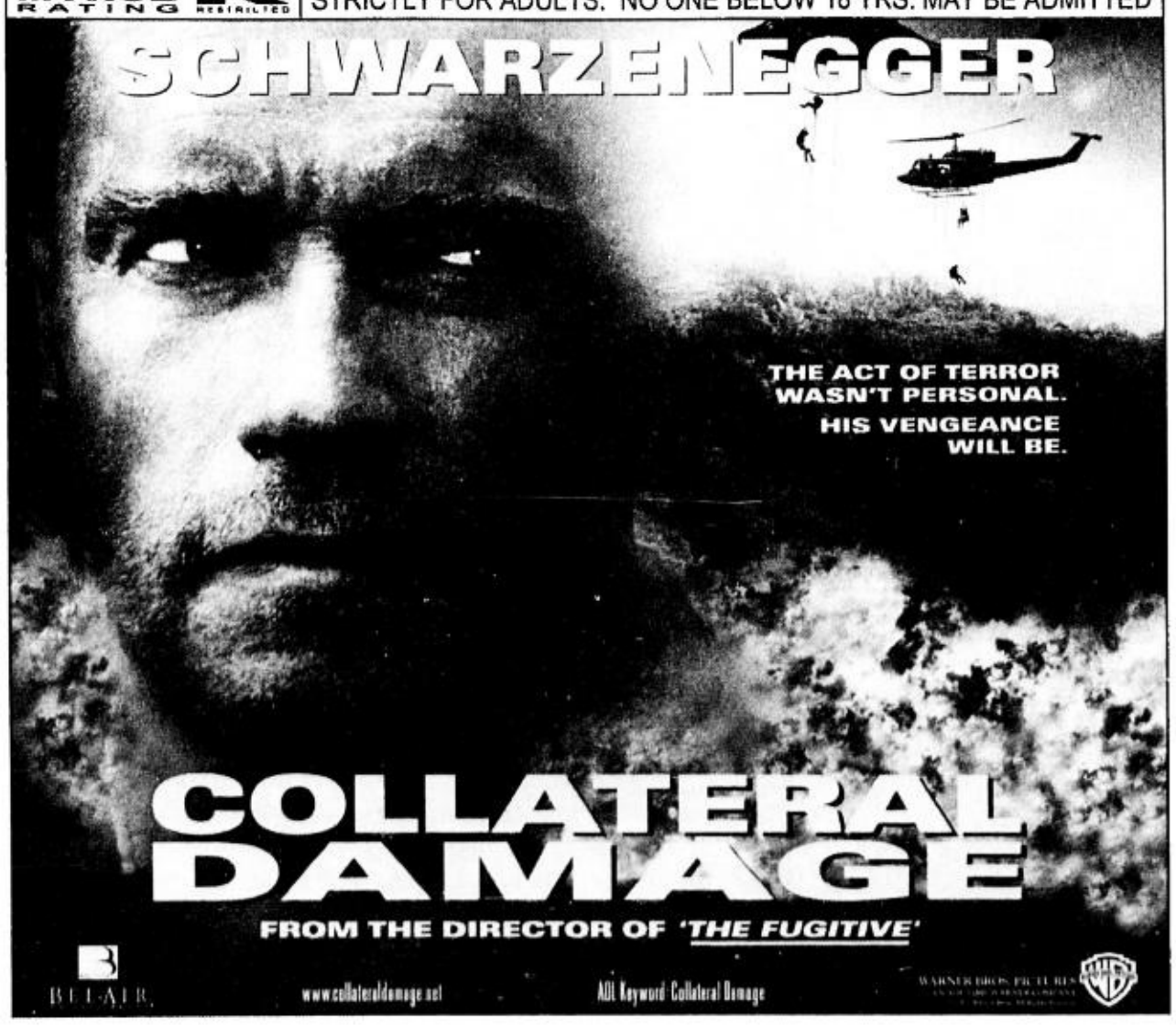


THE KING & QUEEN OF HEARTS
TOGETHER AT LAST
IN THE MOST ROMANTIC DATE-MOVIE
THIS VALENTINE'S!

RICHARD GOMEZ and REGINE VELASQUEZ



DETONATING ON FEB. 13 NATIONWIDE !



What's okay to do, okay to admit, okay to share

MY column last Friday was incomplete. A mistake in the fax transmission led to the loss of my last three paragraphs. That column should have ended with my saying that the baked lasagna that Josh and I had that night was very flavorful and delicious. My meat sauce was excellent because of the "rendering" method.

I ended that column by greeting my brother Noy, who celebrated his 43rd birthday last Friday, Feb. 8.

My wish for Noy is that he and his girlfriend Bernadette will settle down in the very near future and start a family of their own. She seems to be his ideal match, and I really hope they'll end up together.

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

Lover-less

I'm turning 31 on Thursday, and I wanted to share with you some things that I've realized are really okay. Okay to do, okay to admit, and okay to share.

● It's okay to be "lover-less," even on Valentine's Day.

Josh and I are spending my birthday in his favorite place, Boracay. He got to choose where we'd celebrate, and Boracay was his choice. I've already pre-taped my "Game KNB" birthday week celebration and almost all the greetings for me wished that I'd soon have someone special in my life. Last year, that was also the same theme. Last year, I cried because of that void. This year, I can finally just shrug it off.

I'd be a hypocrite if I say that I don't hope to one day have a stable and committed relationship, but if it doesn't happen in the next few years, it's no longer a big deal.

WHAT'S A26

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING

SCHWARZENEGGER
COLLATERAL DAMAGE
R18
February 11, 2002
Monday-7:30 p.m.
@ Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Cinema 6
THIS MONSTER RADIO RX93.1 PREMIERE IS STRICTLY INVITATIONAL.
REGULAR SCREENING BEGINS FEBRUARY 13, 2002

PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2002

SM Megamall Cinema 6, February 13-19 Program Schedule

	Feb 13 Wed	Feb 14 Thu	Feb 15 Fri	Feb 16 Sat	Feb 17 Sun	Feb 18 Mon	Feb 19 Tue
11am	MFI Shorts	Emerging Filmmakers	Kodak Winners	Emerging Filmmakers	Animation Program	Rust: Experimental Shorts	New 35MM Shortss
1:30pm	Nick Deocampo's Ynang Bayan	Mike De Leon's Sister Stella L.	Chito Roño's Eskapo	Rust: Experimental Shorts	Animation Program	Newly-Restored MN Carmen Rosales	Newly-Restored Seksing-Seksi
4pm	Marilou Diaz-Abaya's Brutal w/ Sari Dalena's Memories of A Forgotten War	Lupita Kashiwahara's Minsa'y Isang Gamu- Gamu	Ditsi Carolino's Masakit sa Mata & Mes De Guzman's Batang Trapo	Neil Daza's Disyembre & Avic Ilagan's Sowing Seeds	NIDA TRIBUTE Eddie Garcia's Magdusa Ka		Gerry De Leon's Sanda Wong
6:30pm	OPENING FILM Alejandro Iñarritu's AMORES PERROS	Newly-Restored: JACK AND JILL	Aureaus Solito's Basal Banar	New 35MM Short Films & Music Videos	Ading Fernando's John and Marsha	Guisseppe Tornatorre's Malena	SPECIAL SCREENING Sari Dalena's Memories of a Forgotten War and Raymond Red's Sakay
9pm		Micheal Rymer's PERFUME	The Beatles in A HARD DAY"S NIGHT	Roxlee's Album Launch & Cesar Asar	F.H. Constantino's Waray-Waray	Apchatpong Weerasethakul's Mysterious Objects At Noon	CLOSING FILM Julian Schnabel's BEFORE NIGHT FALLS

*titles are subject to change w/o prior notice

OPENING FILM: Alejandro Iñarritu's Cannes-winning AMORE PERROS only on February 13 SM Megamall ,6:30 pm

The Controversial GAY FILM "BEFORE NIGHT FALLS" February 19, 9pm

Live it UP! SKYFILMS TODAY

ika-9 PELIKULA LIPUNAN 2002

the film event of the year will start on Feb 13!

FILMS FOR EVERYONE.
Amores Perros (Mexico, 2001)
Before Night Falls (USA, 2000)
Mysterious Objects at Noon (Thailand, 2001)
A Hard Day's Night (London, 1964)
Waray-Waray (Philippines, 1954)
Jack & Jill (Philippines, 1955)
New Films
Independent Films
Restored Classics
Nida Tribute
Foreign Films
for inquiries pls call 723 4058 or 727 1915

ika-9 PELIKULA LIPUNAN 2002
February 13-19 SM Megamall
February 20-23 SM Iloilo
March 1-2 SM Pampanga
March 8-9 Baguio

SKYFILMS Kaito Live it UP! TODAY

Special Valentine Presentation
WARMING HEARTS FEB. 13
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS' HAS GOT THE GOODS. DIRECTED SUPERBLY BY PENNY MARSHALL. THE FILM ACCELERATES DREW BARRYMORE'S CAREER, AND PUTS STEVE ZAHN'S INTO OVERDRIVE." GENE SHALIT, THE TODAY SHOW
"WONDERFULLY ACTED, ESPECIALLY BY DREW BARRYMORE." RICHARD SCHICKEL, TIME MAGAZINE
"MS. BARRYMORE'S TOUGH-BUT-TENDER PERFORMANCE IS THE CLEAREST PROOF YET THAT SHE HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO STRETCH HER TALENTS INTO LARGE, COMPLEX PORTRAYALS." STEPHEN HOLDEN, THE NEW YORK TIMES

DREW BARRYMORE
RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
ridingincars.com
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

See it first!
SM CINEMA

RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS

REGULAR SHOWING ON FEBRUARY 13 AT THE SM CINEMAS.

Invitational Mellow Touch Screening on Feb. 11, 2002 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 10
MTRCB RATING P13

See it first!
SM CINEMA

Regular showing on Feb. 13 at the SM CINEMAS.

Simultaneously shown at: SM Cebu · Davao Pampanga · Iloilo

Invitational K-Lite Screening on Feb. 11, 2002 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 1
MTRCB RATING R18

SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
February 11-12

MTRCB RATING: PG13
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FEBRUARY 12
RAVE & RIDGE

FEBRUARY 13
KOOLJACKS & NEW LEVEL

FEBRUARY 14
EMERGE & PREVUE & SILK

FEBRUARY 15
OPUS & PULP CULTURE
REAL GROOVE

FEBRUARY 22
GLADY'S AND THE BOXERS

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POWER RUSH

FEBRUARY 14
F.I.B.
M PEOPLE

FEBRUARY 15
SLIDE
GREEN DEPARTMENT
M PEOPLE

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FEBRUARY 13
rhythm ace

FEBRUARY 14
W.O.T.

FEBRUARY 15
S.P.I.

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Meycauayan
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FEBRUARY 13
S.P.I
OVERLOAD

FEBRUARY 14
FREEZE
MODAL MAGIC

FEBRUARY 15
W.O.T.
CROSSOVER

CHICK O CLOCK
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Cor. Dorotea Jose

FEBRUARY 13
7 SECONDS
PINOY TUBO

FEBRUARY 14
AGENDA
K.O. JONES

FEBRUARY 15
AEGIS
RIDGE
FREEZE
ADVENT CALL

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Recording industry faces daunting problems

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR THE first time in a decade, CD sales are down worldwide. In addition, recording companies are having to deal with the inroads made by piracy and Napster.

Another disturbing symptom of a more general malaise is the fact that the big companies have been buying out the independents. The result is, there are now only around three giant companies calling the shots.

But these giants are again criticized for banking on big superstars, and being unable to nurture new talents.

Creative stagnation could then follow hot on the heels of poor sales, leading to a vicious cycle that could eventually push the industry into a serious tailspin.

For their part, the majors protest that their critics don't appreciate the huge investment needed to find, develop and launch new musical talents.

They also point out that nine out of 10 new artists aren't successful in their bid for musical stardom, so the single "survivor's" earnings have to subsidize those huge losses. Where's the future there?

Well, one way out appears to be the online sale of musical products. The word is that it won't be long before online sales will account for one-third of all album sales, resulting in big savings on overhead costs, etc.

Good news like that, however tentative, is music to harassed recording executives' ears!

Best OPM love songs

THIS Valentine week, 10 p.m. love songs have been singled out by Love Radio 90.7 jocks. See if you agree:

1. Sana Maulit Muli, Gary Valenciano. "The song moves listeners to think about love, destiny and second chances."

2. "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," Regine Velasquez. "Brilliantly romantic tune."

3. "Ikaw," Sharon Cuneta. "Certified favorite at weddings."

4. "Pagdating ng Panahon," Aiza Seguerra. "A lot of this hit song's appeal is due to its simplicity."

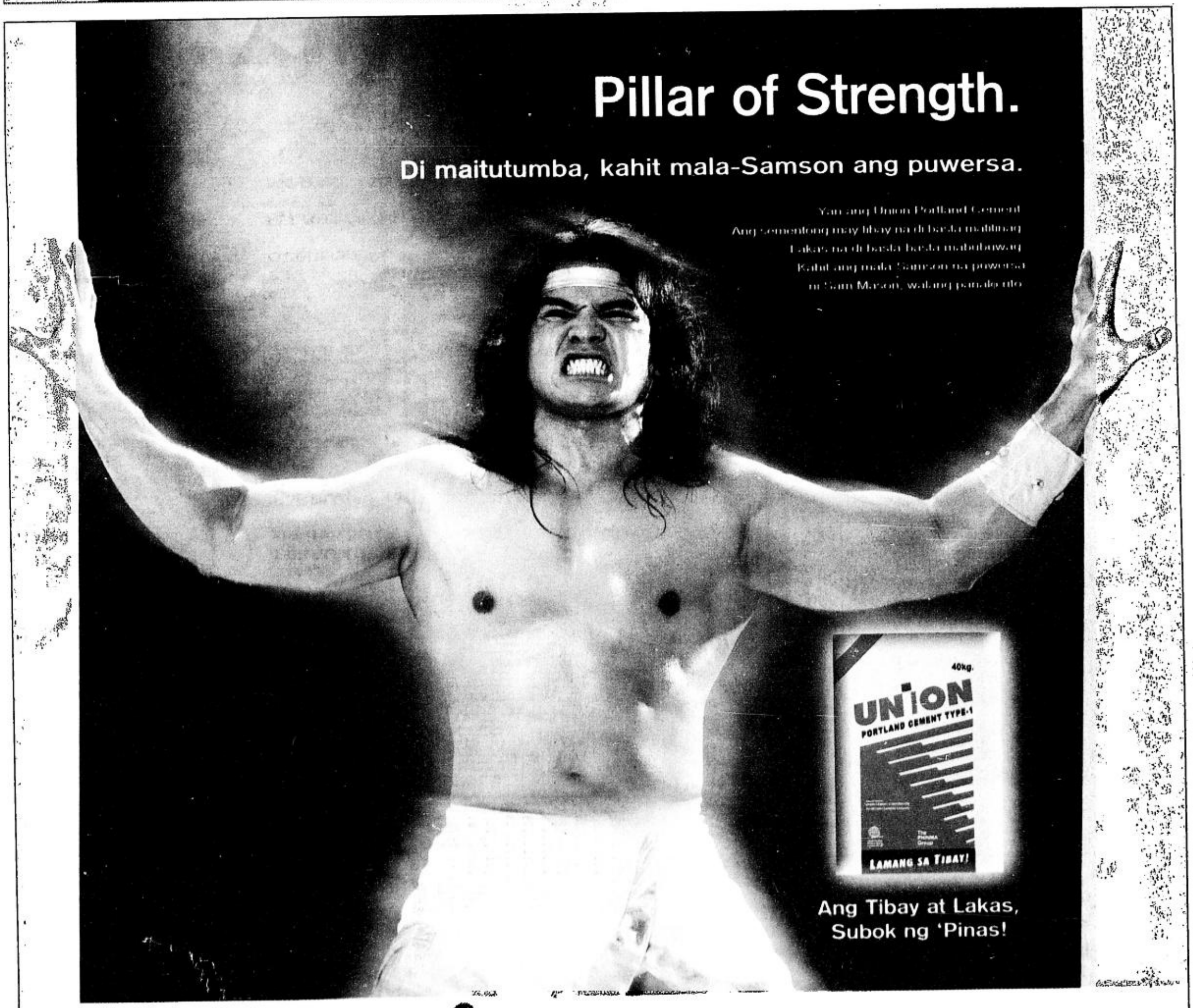
5. "You are My Song," Martin Nievera. "Reveals the passionate and sensitive side of the Concert King."

6. "Forevermore," Side A. "Full of emotional content."

7. "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," Ogie Alcasid. "Easy-listening piece that tugs at the heartstrings."

8. "Give Me A

RECORDING/ A26



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MONDAY
FEBRUARY 11, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

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Lehman eyes bad loans of PNB, Land Bank

By Clarissa S. Batino

AFTER its deal with the Metrobank Group, Lehman Brothers is looking at buying some of the bad loans of Philippine National Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines and Equitable PCI Bank.

The US investment bank has allocated $1.5 billion for its bid to acquire non-performing loans of Philippine banks.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said Lehman was also discussing with the three banks the options to dispose of their non-performing loans.

Camacho said more groups were becoming interested to set up asset management companies in the Philippines given the impending passage of the law on special purpose asset vehicles that would provide incentives for AMCs to buy and dispose of banks' bad loans.

The law would exempt AMCs or SPAVs from paying the 6-percent capital gains tax and allow foreign groups to hold real estate properties on a temporary basis.

Colony Capital Asia Pacific Ltd. had already informed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that it would tie up anew with Megaworld Corp. to put up an AMC.

Colony Capital, already a shareholder of Megaworld, is a US-based company that buys real estate assets with worldwide transactions reaching nearly $8 billion.

The US-based venture capital together with Megaworld had started talking with banks on how the latter could sell real estate assets to them.

"I think Congress is determined to pass the SPAV law within the first semester of the year. It is listed as among the priority bills and the House had finished its version," Camacho said.

Of the three banks eyed by Lehman, PNB has the biggest NPL problem as its bad loans now account for 46 percent or P45.59 billion of total loans as of end-2001. Though much lower than the 53-percent ratio as of the third quarter, the sixth largest bank remained the most hobbled by NPLs.

State-owned Land Bank's bad loans of P31.03 billion are equivalent to 25.14 percent of total loans, while Equitable PCI registered an NPL ratio of 22.88 percent or P28.48 billion worth of soured loans as of end-2001.

The Metrobank Group, the country's biggest, carried P33.06 billion worth of bad loans or 18.1 percent in its portfolio.

Lehman had agreed to buy about P15 billion worth of Metrobank's NPLs.

"I believe Lehman is exploring specific investments and is talking with PNB, Land Bank, Equitable PCI, among other banks," Camacho said.

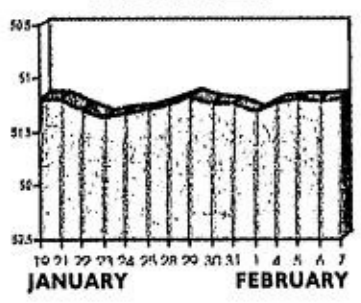
A central bank official said that since a big portion of the banking industry's P291 billion worth of soured loans were owed by the property sector, real estate companies could be enticed to put up their own AMCs or SPAVs to help banks take out their bad loans.

The BSP official cautioned, however, that the property companies that would engage in AMCs should not be affiliated with the bank whose assets it would try to dispose.

"The central bank, for regulatory purposes, wants the real estate firm wanting to be an AMC to be independent and not affiliated with any bank," said the official.

INDICATORS

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.22 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 8, 2002

¥133.64 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 8, 2002

GOLD: $305/306
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 8, 2002

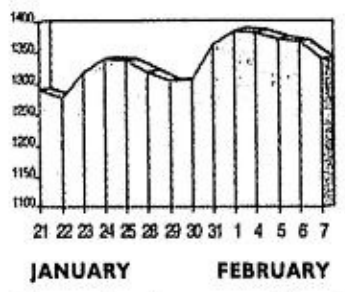
STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen to rise

THE BULLS are seen struggling to regain dominance of the market this week with the aid of bargain-hunters after a sharp correction last week.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 41.96 points or 3.03 percent last week to close at 1,344.35. It was the steepest week-on-week decline since a rebound which started in mid-November. *(See story on Page B4.)*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

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Have you been 'cleaned' lately?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

MY eldest grandchild Melanie, fresh out of college, landed her first job recently. She breezed through the interview and was told to report for work the next day. But she had to submit a "clearance" from no less than the National Bureau of Investigation.

I have always wondered why, under our justice system where one is deemed innocent until proven guilty, it is the citizen who must prove his innocence, which is what happens when one has to get an NBI clearance, and not the other fellow who must prove the citizen guilty. But that is not our story today.

Because she could not go to the NBI Head Office at Taft Avenue on a workday, Melanie went on a Saturday. She arrived there at 11 in the morning. She got her clearance, which said she had no record at NBI, by four in the afternoon. Welcome to the real world, my dear Melanie.

The NBI clearance is only the first of many clearances which Melanie will have to come to grips with in the coming years.

There is the barangay clearance, which certifies how long have you lived in your barangay. For reasons I did not understand, the Bureau of Internal Revenue needed this when I filed an estate tax return.

There is the Social Security System clearance that certifies that you are up to date in your contributions. City Hall needs this when you renew your Mayor's permit to do business. SSS uses City Hall as a collection agency.

There is the Ombudsman clearance. This is required by the GSIS of a government employee to qualify for pension. I know of two lady teachers from the small town of Caramoan on the Pacific Ocean side of Camarines Sur who had to come to Manila to apply for the clearance. It was their first trip to the big city in ages. They did not know where the Ombudsman office was.

The realty tax clearance certifies that you are not in arrears in the payment of taxes on your real estate. Banks need this clearance in connection with the renewal of your real estate mortgage. At the realty tax section in City Hall, there is a little old lady in the far corner from whom you buy the documentary stamps to be affixed to the clearance. You pay the lady P20 for P15 worth of stamps. You do not mind the mark-up as she saves you a trip to the BIR.

Even the best of universities are into clearances. When you graduate, your diploma and transcript of records are held hostage until you get a clearance signed by your last professors, athletic director, dean of discipline, librarian, cafeteria operator, and, of course, the cashier.

But the mother of all clearances is the arson clearance. About 30 years ago, if your house burned down, the insurance adjuster worked independently of the arson squad. If he was convinced there was no arson (the surest proof is that your house was very much underinsured), he computed the loss, reported to the insurance company, and the claim was paid.

Then, the police authorities complained that once the claim was paid before they finished investigating the case (why it took the arson squad longer to finish the case than the adjuster was never looked into), the case became moot and academic. So, at the request of the police authorities, the insurance industry agreed not to pay the claim until an arson clearance was issued.

Overnight, a backyard industry was born. The arson clearance took on a life and value of its own. It could only be issued if the insured came across with 10 percent of the estimated claim.

Today, most insurance companies do not bother with the arson clearance. They have long realized that if the insured torched his place, he would not quibble about buying an arson clearance. And, once an arson clearance was insurance company found it difficult to deny the claim, even if it was convinced that the insured set fire to his place.

This clearance industry has to be shut down. Except in very few cases, the clearance is a waste of time and money.

Waterfront hotels earmark ₱150M for upgrading

By D C. Dumlao

HOTEL and casino operator Waterfront Philippines Inc. is spending about P150 million to upgrade its hotels in Cebu and Davao in order to take advantage of the improving tourism prospects.

In a press briefing on Friday, WPI vice president for sales and marketing Rexlon Gatchalian said the company was planning to upgrade its two Waterfront hotels in Cebu and the recently reopened Davao Insular Hotel. It also intends to undertake an aggressive marketing campaign.

"One way to raise revenues is to increase the price but we have no intention of doing that, at least not until the hotels are spruced up," Gatchalian said.

Of the total amount to be set aside for hotel upgrading, P100 million will go to the renovation of Waterfront Mactan and Davao Insular while P50 million will be used to embellish the lobby of Waterfront Cebu City and add more convention halls.

Gatchalian said the hotel chain was forced to scale down its average room rates in order to perk up the sluggish demand after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Prior to the attacks, he said the average room rate was P2,000, which went down to as low as P1,000 before stabilizing at around P1,500.

Gatchalian said the much-improved tourism environment arising from better political conditions and his group's aggressive marketing efforts were expected to translate to better revenues this year.

He said WPI was projecting that sales from its three hotel properties would hit P70 million per month or about P840 million for the full year, excluding revenues from casino operations. Of the total projected amount, Waterfront Cebu City is seen to contribute the bulk of about P50 million per month, while Waterfront Mactan and Davao Insular are targeted to pump in P10 million each per month.

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Yikes, it's Wykes

REYNALDO "Wykes" Wycoco, the chief of the National Bureau of Investigation, has been tasked by Chief Justice Hilario Davide to investigate the allegations of corruption among the judges of the Baguio Regional Trial Court.

Among the complaints to be investigated by the NBI against one of the judges, Executive Judge Antonio Reyes, is that your honor had been getting free meals and other privileges at the Baguio Country Club, when the club itself is a litigant in a number of cases being heard by Reyes himself.

(Reyes vigorously denies the allegations, saying he had been paying for his meals and drinks at the club.)

There is one little problem for Wycoco and the NBI. The NBI's top agent himself is a recipient of free room and meals from the club itself!

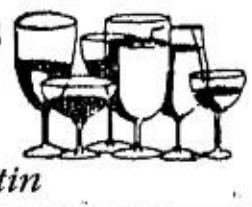
An internal accounting report from the Baguio Country Club obtained by *Cocktales* showed that the deputy NBI chief for operations, Lolito Utitco, stayed for free at the exclusive club from Dec. 6-8, 2001, billeted in room 303.

An unconfirmed report claimed that Wycoco himself checked in at the club along with Utitco.

What has been confirmed is that other NBI agents also took at least two adjoining rooms in the same floor but, unlike Utitco, paid for their accommodation in cash.

Utitco's entry showed that because he was "with General Wycoco," the club management decided to waive the charges and instead hide the cost of the stay under "GOE," which supposedly stands for "general office expenses."

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

The NBI stay at the country club coincided with the annual Fil-Am golf tournament.

Another NW offensive

FRESH from the success of its $299-holiday fare to New York, Northwest Airlines is again rattling the competition with a $349 + 20,000 miles for a roundtrip, economy fare ticket to the Big Apple and other key East Coast cities.

The offer is good only for Manila-originating passengers who must take the US-bound flight anywhere between Feb. 18 and March 15, incidentally the height of winter. The return flight must be taken not later than March 30.

For business class, the fare is $900 + 30,000 miles.

For those who wish to visit only Nagoya, the US carrier is offering a rock-bottom $149 + 10,000 miles for a roundtrip, economy ticket ($420 + 15,000 miles for business class) for the same period.

The offer may be availed of directly from either the Salcedo Village office of Northwest or through the Northwest Philippine website, the latter method even topping with a 3,000-mile discount as a come-on.

Patience of Imam

AFTER years of being caught in a bureaucratic blackhole, the privatization papers of the Al Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines will finally be signed tomorrow.

Despite having won the bidding years ago, Malpinas Investments Inc., a Malaysian-Filipino venture, could not take over and rehabilitate Al Amanah Bank after a fake Islamic Bank group put up an opposition and claimed they were the legitimate owners of the government bank.

With the principals of the fake Islamic Bank group now on the run and all the legal issues within the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bangko Sentral resolved, the privatization authorities finally scheduled the turnover in Malacañang tomorrow, with no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo in attendance.

Heard through the grapevine

JESUS Enrique "Jess" Martinez, the Protestant lawyer/party list candidate of the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac), has been slated by Malacañang to replace SEC Commissioner Edijer Martinez, who is not related to him, when the latter retires end of March.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Gov't junks call to review Kirin's buy-in price for SMC

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRADE Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II has rejected calls to review Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd.'s acquisition price for 15 percent of San Miguel Corp. since the premium offered by the Japanese beer maker last year had been wiped out with the recent surge in stock price of the Philippine food and beverage giant.

Kirin offered a 25-percent premium over the prevailing market price of SMC in December last year. Since then, Kirin's offer price has approximated SMC's current stock price as fund managers drove the Philippine index higher in January. This prompted calls from some sectors for a renegotiation of the deal's terms.

SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., who engineered the deal, had cited the premium paid by Kirin as justification for his management's decision to sell 15 percent of SMC through the issuance of new shares.

Roxas, chair of the committee reviewing Kirin's $540 million buy-in into SMC, said there was no point in seeking for a higher share price from Kirin since the terms were set months before the ongoing review.

"If all market transactions would be reviewed solely on the basis of a change in the stock price after the terms have been firmed up, then no deal would ever be consummated in the stock market," Roxas said.

He said that it could also be argued that SMC shares rose because of Kirin's keen interest in the company despite the lingering question on the majority ownership of the company.

The committee is currently working on an agreement with Cojuangco to make the deal more palatable to the government, which had opposed the deal on fears that it would unduly dilute its hold on the company in favor of Cojuangco while its sequestration case remains unresolved.

Roxas said the agreement remained on track of being finalized this week with a few more items to be cleared up mainly on the wording of the pact. Earlier, Roxas said the agreement would ensure that the government would continue to have a say in SMC despite the entry of Kirin through adequate representation in SMC's board, committees and subsidiaries.

Roxas said the government was looking to have at least seven board seats in SMC—five for the Presidential Commission on Good Government, one for the Government Service and Insurance System, and one for the Social Security System.

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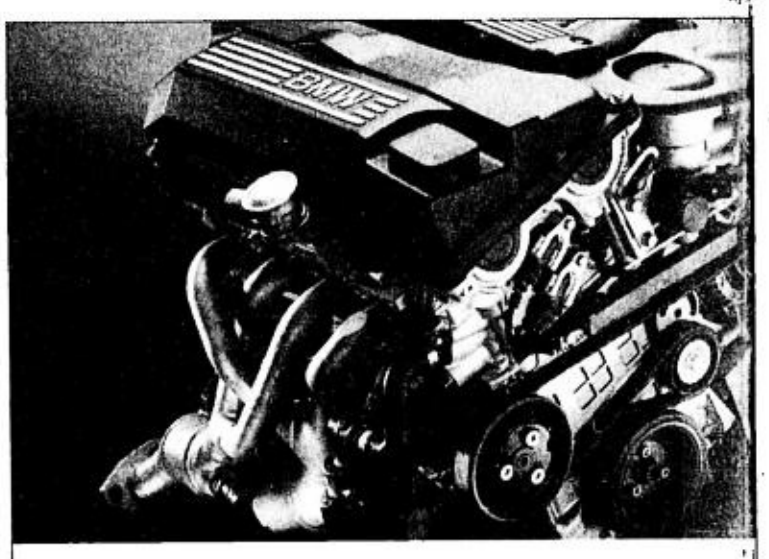

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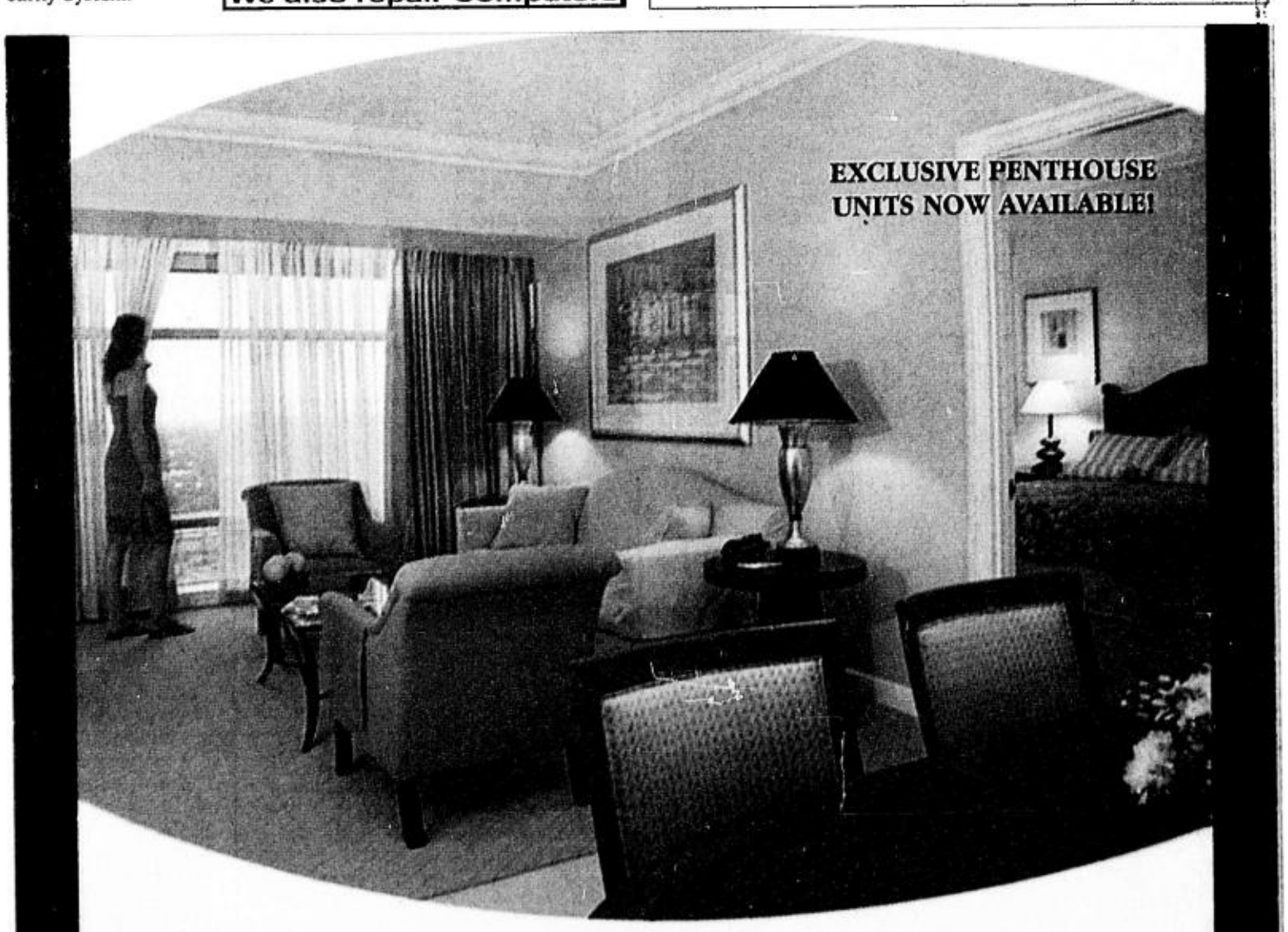

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Renewed bargain-hunting seen to lift local stocks

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BULLS are seen struggling to regain dominance of the market this week with the aid of bargain-hunters after a sharp correction last week.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 41.96 points or 3.03 percent last week to close at 1,344.35 on Friday. It was the steepest week-on-week decline since a rebound which started in mid-November.

Aside from pressure from profit-takers, the market was weighed down last week by concerns over Filinvest Land Inc. as investors were disappointed with the low conversion price for its P1.2-billion convertible bonds.

A lot of investors who had been accumulating FLI shares decided to sell down the stock last week after FLI announced a conversion price of P1.70-P1.875 for its bond issue. FLI dropped to an intra-week low of P1.86 from a high of P2.65 before stabilizing on Friday after additional disclosures were made.

The jitters over FLI likewise spilled over to other issues, resulting in the sharper-than-expected correction for the main index.

"It looks like the rally might resume this week. We have to watch out for the 1,350 mark. If the market is unable to break it, we'll again go back to the 1,300 levels," Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said.

MARKET PLAY

But if the market could gather enough strength to breach the 1,350 resistance, Roxas said the next target was at 1,380, a breakaway from which would signal a continued ascent.

To confirm a bullish reversal, however, Roxas said the buying momentum should gather more steam specially now that technical indicators showed that the index was still at overbought levels.

DBS Vickers Securities associate director for sales Enrique Sta. Ana projected that the market could be back on the road to recovery this week.

"This week, bargain-hunting will continue, barring any more surprise developments like what happened to FLI last week," Sta. Ana said.

Sta. Ana said the market's strongest resistance after 1,380 was at 1,450. "Once this is breached, then 1,500 is just around the corner," he said.

"The fact is that the market is very liquid. New money is coming in and some people are raring to come in. We are now within the radar screen of foreign investors," he said.

BPI Securities analyst Roberto Cano said that the correction last week had brought the prices of most index issues and second-liners to more affordable levels.

"By the end of last week, bargain hunters begun to scoop select issues at their support levels. We still have to see if the market can sustain support at current market levels. However, we would like to see the market break the resistance levels at 1,360 and 1,400 to confirm market strength," Cano said.

Cano noted that the 4-point Phisix rise last Friday was a good sign but noted that it was still early to tell whether the market was back on track to recovery. He said the technical indicators were still showing bearish signals, but stressed that the current correction was an opportunity to accumulate.

Foreign brokers still dominated local market

FOREIGN brokers continued to account for the lion's share of the local stock market last month despite the shakeout that saw the closure of several of their colleagues last year.

The top broker for the month was ING Barings Securities (Philippines) Inc., a unit of Dutch banking giant ING Barings, which cornered 23.57 percent of the P56.77-billion total market value turnover for the month.

Analysts said most of the top brokers for the month were those which were commissioned to cross at the PSE the 82.3-percent stake in soft drink bottler Cosmos Bottling Corp. sold by RFM Corp. to San Miguel Corp. They said ING Barings, whose parent bank was RFM's financial adviser in the P14-billion Cosmos deal, got the biggest share of the cross transactions.

Ranking a far 2nd and 3rd were foreign brokers UBS Warburg Securities (Philippines) Inc. and JP Morgan Securities Inc., which posted a respective market share of 8.37 percent and 7.22 percent.

But unlike in the previous year where few local brokers made it to the top 20 list, 12 locals made it the roster.

The highest ranking local brokers were RCBC Securities which landed in 4th place and Regis Partners Inc. (5th place), while PCCI Securities Brokers Corp. ranked 8th.

Other local brokers in the top 20 list were: Asiasec Equities Inc. (10th); Philippine Equity Partners Inc. (11th); Abacus Securities Corp. (12th); BPI Securities Corp. (13th); Summit Securities (15th); The First Resources Management & Securities Corp. (17th); BA Securities Inc. (18th); AB Capital Securities Inc. (19th), and Unicapital Securities Inc. (20th).

Of these locally owned brokerage houses, Regis Partners and Philippine Equity Partners were formed out of a management buyout of the stake held by their foreign principals but they continued to execute trades for foreign clients. Regis Partners was formerly Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Securities while Philippine Equity Partners was Merrill Lynch Securities Philippines Inc., the country's top broker last year which pulled out of the local stock market due to the poor market conditions.

The other foreign brokers in the top 20 list for January were: ATR-Kim Eng Securities Inc. (6th); CLSA Philippines Inc. (7th); DBS Vickers Securities (9th); KGI Securities, and ABN AMRO Asia.

A local broker said, however, that the January list was not indicative of how local brokers would fare vis-à-vis their foreign counterparts in the months ahead, specially since last month's performance was influenced largely by windfall from the Cosmos deal, which was a non-recurring transaction.

For the full year 2001, there were only five brokers which made it to the top 20 list: BPI Securities (8th); UCPB Securities Inc. (12th); Abacus Securities (14th); AsiaSec Equities (16th), and AB Capital Securities (17th).

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, February 8, 2002)

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BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66.5	66.5	65.5	66	91,700
China Banking Corp.	570	570	570	570	740
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	28	26.5	28	119,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	205	209	204	206	114,700
Philippine National Bank	74.5	74.5	74.5	74.5	500
Phil. Savings Bank	27	29	27	29	1,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	17,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18.5	17.75	18.5	421,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1290	1320	1290	1320	330
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1020	1025	1020	1020	15,780
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30.5	30.5	29	29.5	83,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.59	3,000,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	765	765	750	755	5,830
Ipeople Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	3,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	4,000
Pittel	0.43	0.51	0.43	0.5	18,130,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	180,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	492.5	510	492.5	505	145,460
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	184,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	26	26.5	26	26.5	43,500
Manila Electric Co. B	37	37.5	35.5	37.5	808,000
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.78	1.8	6,429,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	2,053,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	1,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	60,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	610,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	4,911,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23	23	23	23	59,100
RFM Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.32	1.32	2,685,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46.5	46	46.5	84,400
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61.5	61	61.5	117,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	130,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	580,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	525,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	80,000,000
Anglo Phil. Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,620,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.75	0.7	0.75	21,890,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	1,660,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.0625	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	5,330,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	680,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.2	2.2	20,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	137,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.17	7,530,000
Ionics Inc.	8	8.3	8	8.3	36,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	15,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.81	0.83	0.81	0.83	820,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	220,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	3,430,000
Music Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	3,580,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	16,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.26	0.3	120,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.32	260,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Federal Chemicals Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	165,000
Matsushita Elec. Phil. Corp.	5	5	5	5	5,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	58,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	660,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	170,000
Mondragon Intl. Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.49	80,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.17	0.17	130,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	30	30	28.5	29.5	229,600
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	710	710	710	710	3,590
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	750	750	750	750	1,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	3,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	69,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	2,731,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.245	0.27	4,850,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.47	7,310,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	5,370,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	2,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.98	2.04	1.96	1.98	40,007,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
SM Development Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	150,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	1,300,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min. & Dev't.	2.1	2.1	2.08	2.08	120,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.036	0.04	0.036	0.04	70,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.215	860,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	6,780,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	3,550,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	2,130,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	20,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	15,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,327,450	160,963,825.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	431,437,880	276,144,125.00
PRO	63,888,000	115,230,210.00
Mining	101,845,000	6,301,300.00
OIL	46,200,000	426,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	645,498,330	559,065,460.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	552.94	UP 1.63
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,827.74	UP 10.32
PRO	580.52	DOWN 2.51
Mining	1,377.95	UP 22.88
OIL	1.86	DOWN 0.06
All Shares Index	728.89	DOWN 6.91
Composite	1,344.35	UP 4.41

NO. OF ADVANCES: 41; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 33; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 101; NO. OF TRADES: 2,613

CURRENCIES

Feb. 8, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.147579	1.000000	51.2030
Japan	Yen	0.008587	0.007483	0.3832
United Kingdom	Pound	1.623250	1.414500	72.4266
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.147315	0.128370	6.5729
Switzerland	Franc	0.679563	0.592171	30.3209
Canada	Dollar	0.717551	0.625274	32.0159
Singapore	Dollar	0.627126	0.546478	27.9813
Australia	Dollar	0.581347	0.506586	25.9387
Bahrain	Dinar	3.044137	2.652661	135.8242
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.306021	0.266667	13.6542
Brunei	Dollar	0.624873	0.544514	27.8808
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026189	0.022821	1.1685
UAE	Dirham	0.312521	0.272331	13.9442
Korea	Won	0.000877	0.000764	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.871400	44.6183
Brazil	Real	0.474941	0.408163	20.8992
Denmark	Kroner	0.134635	0.117347	6.0085
India	Rupee	0.023703	0.020576	1.0536
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.303253	0.263227	13.4780
Mexico	New Peso	0.126561	0.109182	5.5904
New Zealand	Dollar	0.481691	0.416320	21.3168
Norway	Kroner	0.127865	0.111408	5.7044
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019204	0.016667	0.8534
South Africa	Rand	0.100663	0.087673	4.4891
Sweden	Kroner	0.108586	0.094264	4.8266
Syria	Pound	0.022460	0.019493	0.9981
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032996	0.028629	1.4659
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001496	0.001279	0.0655

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Partial List CLUBS	02/08/2002 SELLING AT	Share Swapping: Please Call CLUBS	BID PRICE
BAGUIO CC	715,000	ALABANG "A"	1,600,000
CALATAGAN GC	90,000	BAGUIO CC	Call now
CANLUBANG GC	865,000	CAMP JOHN HAY	250,000
CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000	CAPITOL HILLS	115,000
FOREST HILLS "A"	230,000	CC AT TAGAYTAY	Call now
LUISITA GC	400,000	EAGLE RIDGE "A"	300,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,700,000	MANILA POLO	2,500,000
MLA. SOUTHWOODS "A"/"B"	73M/ 80M	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	Call now
ORCHARD "A"/"B"	25M/ 55M	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	750,000
RIVIERA GCC "A"/"B"	Call now	PHIL. COLUMBIAN	Call now
SPLENDIDO	925,000	RIVIERA "C"	550,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,650,000	STA. ELENA "B"	Call now
SUBIC BAY YACHT (INDIV)	200,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	730,000
THE COUNTRY CLUB	Call now	WACK-WACK GOLF	6,500,000
WACK WACK GOLF	Call now		

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	THE COUNTRY CLUB	Call now
CANLUBANG GC	55,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	20,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	35,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of February 11, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,550,000	1,700,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,600,000	1,750,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	80,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	280,000
Canlubang	550,000	Please Call
Canyonwoods	Please Call	330,000
Capitol Hills	115,000	135,000
Cebu Country Club	1,800,000	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	200,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	230,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	270,000	300,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	300,000	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	13,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	12,500,000
Manila Polo	2,500,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	670,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	650,000	750,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	Please Call
Orchard Golf Club "A"	250,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "B"	250,000	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	500,000
Philippine Columbian	-	85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	230,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	150,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,650,000	1,900,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,750,000	Please Call
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	330,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	180,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	365,000
Tagaytay Highlands	600,000	900,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	730,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	170,000
Valley Golf	220,000	240,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	Please Call

PLAYING RIGHTS

(Available Lessors)			
Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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SELLING:			
Baguio Country Club	720,000	Camp John Hay Golf	280,000
Camp John Hay Golf	280,000	Canlubang Golf	550,000
Canlubang Golf	600,000	Canyon Woods	200,000
Celebrity	180,000	Capitol Hills	130,000
Club Filipino	200,000	Celebrity	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A/B/C"	350/400/550,000	Eagle Ridge "A/B/C"	350/400/550
Fontana "A/B/C/D"	Please call	Forest Hill "A/C"	210/270,000
Forest Hills "C"	315,000	Manila Golf (Indv.) & Corp.	10.5M/12M
Manila Golf (Indv./Corp.)	10.5M/12.5M	Manila Polo	2,550,000
Manila Polo	2,650,000	Manila Southwoods "A"	630,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	650/750,000	Makati Sports "A/B"	250/250,000
Makati Sports "A/B"	250,000	Metropolitan "A/B"	100,000
Mt. Malarayat "A/B/C"	Please call	Mimosa Malarayat	Please call
Riviera "A/B/C"	200/260,000	Orchard "A/B/C"	229/300/350
Sta. Elena "A/B"	1.7M/2.0M	Quezon City Sports	210,000
Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf	370,000	Riviera "A/B/C"	200/250/450
Valle Verde Indiv./Corp.	170/320,000	Sta. Elena "A/B"	1.650M/1.750M
Wack Wack	7,000,000	Sherwood "A/B"	100,000
BUYING:		Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf	365/800,000
Alabang "A/B"	1.6M/1.7M	Tagaytay Midlands	740,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	Valley Golf	210,000
		Wack Wack	6,800,000

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Greenmeadows 26M Corinthian 28M,
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	ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	-	1,500,000.00
2. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	720,000.00
3. CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	750,000.00	-
4. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	110,000.00
5. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	-	350,000.00
6. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	-	350,000.00
7. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	200,000.00	-
8. FONTANA "C"	150,000.00	-
9. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	300,000.00	250,000.00
10. MANILA POLO CLUB	Please call	2,500,000.00
11. MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Corporate)	13,000,000.00	Please call
12. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000.00	600,000.00
13. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000.00	-
14. MT. MALARAYAT "B"	400,000.00	-
15. MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	30,000.00	-
16. ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	-	300,000.00
17. ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	-	350,000.00
18. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	125,000.00	-
19. PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80,000.00	-
20. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	-	200,000.00
21. ROCKWELL	550,000.00	-
22. RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	250,000.00	-
23. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	-	1,800,000.00
24. SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	-	100,000.00
25. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	-	800,000.00
26. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	-	650,000.00
27. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000.00	-
28. VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	200,000.00
29. VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC. (CEBU)	Please call	-
30. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	7,500,000.00	6,000,000.00
31. THE COUNTRY CLUB	4,000,000.00	-
32. OTHERS	Please call	-

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	P30,000.00	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	60,000.00
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	free rental	TAGAYTAY GOLF CLUB	40,000.00
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	30,000.00	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	15,000.00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	20,000.00	WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	80,000.00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000.00	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB	20,000.00
		OTHERS	Please call

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10

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PULILAN PLANT 2
Bo. Dampol 1st, Pulilan, Bulacan

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St. Louis Mills in the 1930s

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Purina's feed products are an offshoot of more than 100 years of uncompromising commitment to animal nutrition. Established in 1894 by William H. Danforth of St. Louis, Missouri, USA, Purina has become a worldwide emblem of quality in the feed formulation industry. In order to maintain its century-old tradition of delivering value-based animal nutrition to agricultural countries, the makers of Purina spun off to stockholders who distribute Purina products in over 17 countries including the Philippines. Its acquisition in 2000 by Cargill Incorporated, the world's largest feed company that produces, markets and distributes agricultural products and services, gave way to a synergy that has strengthened Purina's leadership in animal nutrition, distributing across key international markets including areas with significant growth potential. Currently, Purina has a global network of livestock and poultry feed production, which includes over 178 feed mills located in 26 countries around the world.

Benchmarking through technological innovation

No less than state-of-the-art facilities are used to manufacture Purina Feed Products. To ensure customers that they are utilizing the best brand in the market, the raw materials used in the production of Purina Chow animal feeds pass under an advanced array of analytical instruments capable of analyzing a wide variety of macro and micro ingredients such as amino acids, vitamins, minerals, and antibiotics among others. These highly technological manufacturing processes guarantee the Filipino farm animal raiser of world-class quality.

The essential animal feed products

Purina's feed products provide for the whole life-cycle stages of hogs and poultry. Each product contains special formulation that suits the specific health and nutritional requirements of these animals, making them more commercially profitable.

HOG COMPLETE - Feed formulations for newborn piglets up to grower stage
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Premium Hog Pre-Startina
Premium Hog Startina
Premium Hog Growina
Premium Hog Fattina
Premium Brood Sow
Premium Sow Lactina

BROILER COMPLETE - Chick booster to broiler feed formulations
Chick Boostina
Bio-Broilina 100
Bio-Broilina 200
Bio-Broilina 300

DEWORMERS - Sow and piglet dewormers for worry-free performance
Purgina Piglet Dewormer Chow
Purgina Sow Dewormer Chow.

Kita ang kaibahan sa Purina!

Faithful to its commitment to market leadership, Purina continuously invests in research and technology to create breakthroughs in the animal feed industry especially in the field of hog and poultry feed formulation. By accurately analyzing the unique requirements of the local species of hog and poultry and exhausting the technological capacities of its cutting-edge facilities, Purina's feed products have been successfully reformulated, fast-tracking and maximizing the growth potentials of these farm animals.

Normally, hogs take about 5-6 months growing period and consequently consume at least 6 sacks of feeds in order for them to reach the ideal market weight of 85 kilos. But with the improved Purina Premium Hog Chows, the growing period of hogs was shortened to 3 1/2 months. In just 3 1/2 months at only 3 1/2 sacks of Purina Premium Hog Chows, which can be administered right after weaning, hogs reach the ideal market weight and achieve optimum health no other feed brands can accomplish. This breakthrough has indeed drawn another essential baseline in hog nutrition, making hog raising a more economical and profitably viable livelihood in the Philippines.

And who else could better communicate the Purina Premium Hog Chows 3 1/2 Program than Rina & Dina, an advertising campaign that has successfully promoted the program among hog raisers all over the Philippines.

The 3 ½ Program, launched last year, catapulted the sales of Purina Hog Chows to an all-time high. More and more backyard hog raisers who are accustomed to other feed brands are switching to the newly improved Purina Premium Hog Chows because of its efficiency and its ability to yield investment returns at a shorter period.

Looking ahead to another decade of leadership

Being a leader in the animal feed industry in the Philippines today, Purina carries on to another decade with the same quality enjoyed by its customers for the last 10 years. And with the combined strength of Cargill and Purina, this synergy makes it the world's biggest feed company. Livestock producers are even more assured of constant improvements in the production of value-based solutions, inspired by a vision of raising living standards around the world. As long as there are people who depend on animal raising for livelihood, Purina will be there to meet their demands. After all, Purina is the symbol of quality feeds known worldwide.

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NEW OWNER, NEW NAME

UBS takes over Enron's trading operation

HOUSTON—Enron Corp.'s once-envied trading operation officially got a new owner and a new name Friday.

UBS Warburg's deal to resurrect Enron's trading business under the Swiss investment bank's control was completed on Friday. The new business, UBS Warburg Energy, will begin trading this month.

"Combining the leading energy trading platform and more than 600 talented staff with UBS Warburg's risk management skills and AA+ credit rating will make UBS Warburg Energy a formidable competitor," said John Costas, chief executive officer of UBS Warburg.

Lawrence "Greg" Whalley, who resigned as Enron's president and chief operating officer last week, will be managing director and head of the new operation.

About 650 traders and support staff are preparing to get back into the trading groove for their new employer, said UBS Warburg spokesperson David Walker.

About 800 people staffed Enron's trading operation, but UBS Warburg determined fewer were needed for the new venture, Walker said.

"The critical thing is that we have all the key people and the senior management team that built this business into a market leadership position," Walker said.

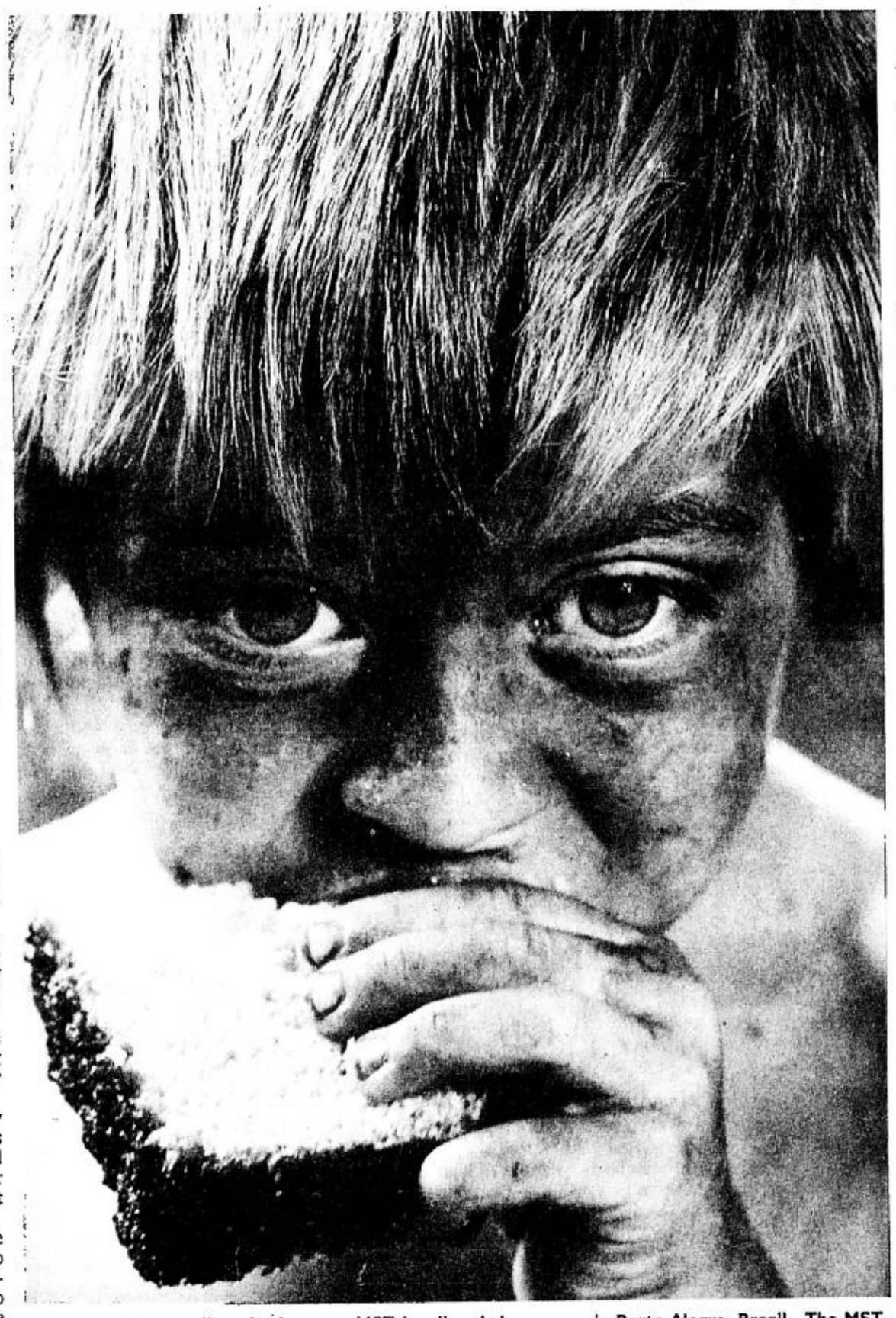
A bankruptcy judge in New York presiding over Enron's case approved UBS Warburg's offer to take over the trading business three weeks ago. The bank paid nothing up front but agreed to give Enron and its creditors one-third of the new venture's pretax profits.

John Olson, a securities analyst with Sanders Morris Harris in Houston, said UBS Warburg would need to retain some of the former energy giant's swagger to bloom.

"They have to be a market maker to really make a difference," Olson said. "They'll crawl before they walk, but that should probably be the outline of the recovery."

Art Gelber, a principal with energy trading firm Gelber & Associates and who used to trade with Enron, said the new venture's biggest problem would be shedding its Enron past while demonstrating its own trading strength.

"It's a bold attempt to resurrect what Enron once had," Gelber said. "They'll be carrying some very heavy Enron baggage. The traders will be coming from Enron, they'll still have the Enron attitude and all the Enron technology. The industry is really looking at Enron with a different coat on." *AP*



A CHILD bit into a slice of cake at an MST-Landless Labors camp in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The MST group participated in the second anti-globalization World Social Forum. AFP

Airline reservations recovering

MADRID—Amadeus, a centralized airline booking network, said on Friday that while reservations continued to recover from the lows of last September, it expected flat growth for 2002.

Amadeus chair Jose Antonio Tazon said: "Despite the turnaround in bookings (since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States), we remain cautious about the evolution of bookings in 2002 and anticipate flat growth.

"Our revenue target for the current year is around 1.8 billion euros ($1.6 billion), while Ebitda (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization) is seen at around 440 million euros," he added.

Earlier, Amadeus posted net profit of 132.7 million euros in 2001 from 124.8 million one year earlier, on a 14.2-percent rise in revenue to 1.785 billion euros. Ebitda climbed to 422.719 million euros from 381.653 million, the company said in a statement.

The Madrid-based company said it had increased its global market share of travel agency bookings by over one percent in 2001.

In the fourth quarter to Dec. 31, the company reported a net profit of 14.989 million euros, compared with a loss of 5.994 million a year earlier, on a 5.2-percent rise in revenue to 410.56 million.

Fourth-quarter results beat the company's forecasts, "given the difficult market conditions in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks," the statement said.

It noted cost savings of some 18 million euros in the fourth quarter, after management took steps to control costs and increase organizational efficiency. *AFP*

Japan told to take steps to stem bad loans rise

OTTAWA—Japanese Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said on Friday that Japan needed steps to stem a rise in banks' new non-performing loans, adding he was ready to dispel concerns over the nation's fragile banking system and its economy.

Shiokawa was speaking upon his arrival for a meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors of the leading G7 nations. At the two-day meeting, which kicks off on Friday, Shiokawa's G7 counterparts are expected to express concern over Japan's struggling banking system—a major factor weighing on the world's second largest economy.

Japanese financial institutions were rapidly writing off their bad loans, but new ones were emerging because of drops in stock and real estate prices, Shiokawa said. Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei stock average fell to 18-year lows last week.

"Due to a decline in stock and land prices, we need to think of measures to halt the emergence of new non-performing loans," he told reporters upon arriving in Ottawa.

The Financial Services Agency said on Friday that bad loans at 136 Japanese banks totaled around 36.8 trillion yen at the end of September, up 3.1 trillion yen from the end of March 2001, which is Japan's fiscal year-end.

Shiokawa reiterated he would explain to his G7 counterparts that it was crucial to restore the function of the nation's financial system and promote private capital spending.

He expressed confidence that he could gain the G7's understanding on the issue and the outlook for Japan's economy.

"I believe (US Treasury Secretary Paul) O'Neill understands that Japan's industry is changing. It will be a good opportunity to explain that to other nations. I wish to strongly express that we have confidence," he said.

Asked about criticism that the pace of Japan's reforms was too slow, Shiokawa said the administration of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, since its inception nine months ago, had laid out the basic direction and what was necessary was cooperation between the government and the industrial sector.

"One or two years is necessary for a new managerial style to emerge," from a style of interdependency, he said. *Reuters*

Steel-producing countries to recommend 117.5M-ton cut in global output by 2006

PARIS—Representatives of major steel-producing countries agreed on Friday to recommend that global output be cut by 117.5 million tons by the end of 2005 to cope with a severe market glut.

Pressing questions from US officials on public subsidies to steel producers remain unanswered, however, said one delegate to a conference sponsored by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris.

Participants from 38 countries and the European Commission said in a statement that they expected the reduction to come in part from elimination of inefficient capacity.

They added, however, that "there would continue to exist a sizeable amount of capacity which, in the absence of special conditions or support, would not be viable."

The representatives "agreed that it was important to continue to encourage the closure of such capacity."

The statement comes against a background of US complaints against foreign public subsidies, which officials hold responsible for a slump in the steel sector that has forced some 30 US companies to seek bankruptcy protection.

"Differences of opinion persist over this thorny question, despite progress made toward eliminating excess production capacity," one delegate stressed.

US deputy trade secretary Grant Aldonas estimated Friday that 25 percent of steel production came from publicly supported groups, and told reporters that the question had to be dealt with.

His European counterpart, Morgan Karl, had already proposed a levy of one or 2 percent on each ton of steel used in the United States, regardless of its origin, to help fund restructuring of the US steel industry.

US producers have called for tariffs of 40 percent on imported steel for at least the next four years, but President George W. Bush has yet to make a decision on the issue.

Karl said Thursday that European steel producers had agreed to cut finished steel capacity by 24 million tons per year between 2003 and 2005, against an earlier proposal of 16 million tons.

Conference participants singled out closure costs as "one of the principal impediments to industry restructuring."

The group also said that cross-border strategic alliances between producers, as well as mergers and acquisitions "suggest that the firms are assessing their situations increasingly in a global context."

Support for plant closures, therefore, might be found from international financial institutions such as the World Bank, it suggested.

But the steel representatives added that "the possibility of levies that could be used to help finance social and environmental costs associated with closures would continue to be explored." *AFP*

Global Crossing subject of SEC investigation

LOS ANGELES—Global Crossing Ltd., the fiber optics network firm that filed for bankruptcy protection last month, said the Securities and Exchange Commission was investigating a former executive's charges of accounting irregularities.

FBI investigators, who focus strictly on criminal matters, have also begun looking at the situation, although their inquiries fall far short of a formal investigation, US law enforcement sources said.

Tisha Kresler, a spokesperson, said Friday the SEC subpoenaed company documents this week, including e-mails, contracts and correspondence, but she would neither confirm nor deny that the FBI had become involved.

The SEC investigation is an expansion of earlier requests for information from the SEC, with which the company said it had cooperated. It focuses on allegations made by Roy Olofson, vice president of finance until last November, that the company misstated revenue and expenses.

Global Crossing officials have repeatedly said the charges were without merit. The company said it was cooperating with SEC investigators.

Olofson made his allegations last August in a letter to the firm's top lawyer, advising him that the company was inflating revenue and cash flow to enhance the appearance of results.

Olofson claimed that the company boosted sales in the last few days of some quarters by "roundtripping," that is booking a sale of capacity to a customer and then purchasing a similar amount of capacity back from the client. In the second quarter of 2001, Global Crossing did approximately 13 roundtrip transactions, he said.

"Global Crossing was giving the impression that it was generating cash revenues when, in actuality, these transactions did not increase the cash position of the company in any material sense," Olofson's lawyer Brian Lysaght said in a statement this week.

Global Crossing spent billions of dollars over the last five years building a global fiber optics network. When the Bermuda-based firm, which has executive offices in Beverly Hills, filed for bankruptcy protection Jan. 28, it listed $12.3 billion of debt and $22.4 billion of assets, making it the largest telecom bankruptcy case in US history. *AP*

Canada January jobless rate eases

TORONTO—Canada's employment picture improved in January, with the creation of 76,000 jobs, giving some hope the economy is turning around and cementing expectations that the Bank of Canada will halt its year-long campaign of interest-rate cuts.

Canada's unemployment rate eased to 7.9 percent in January, from 8 percent in December, on the back of a large gain in part-time jobs, Statistics Canada said on Friday.

The fall came as a surprise. Analysts had expected the rate to rise to 8.1 percent. The decline will likely mean the central bank will hold interest rates steady when it next announces rate policy on March 5.

"It certainly justifies (the Bank of Canada) moving on to the sidelines," said Paul Ferley, assistant chief economist at Bank of Montreal.

The jobs report was just one of three strong Canadian economic releases on Friday, prompting some to quip: "What recession?"

Housing starts, one of the pillars of strength in the weakened economy, surged 17.3 percent to their highest level since May 1990, while purchasing activity climbed in January, posting its first rise in two months.

Analysts said the reports support the "good fundamentals" argument that Finance Minister Paul Martin and other government officials have been using to talk up the soft Canadian dollar, rescuing it from its recent record low at C$1.6194. *Reuters*

Valentine scents bring in big business for perfume industry

...displays gift items in time for Valentine's Day. AP

NEW YORK—Every Valentine's Day, the $5-billion-a-year perfume industry enjoys a "boomlet" as fragrances fly off the shelves and onto the throats, wrists and other pulse points of romance-minded consumers.

The seductive power of perfume is as old as the centuries.

Last year, after two years of bright sales in the fragrance industry, there was a slight decline amid the softening economy, according to The NPD Beauty Trends, the fragrance, retail and skincare tracking unit of market information provider NPD Group Inc. in Port Washington, New York.

Scented bath and body products sales were up and gift sets continued to do well, increasing 8.2 percent from 2000, in department store sales, despite a disappointing holiday season.

For the major fragrance players in the marketplace, Valentine's Day is second only to Christmas in sales.

"We make a lot of noise at Valentine's Day because we have a story to tell," Andrea Robinson, president of Ralph Lauren Fragrances Worldwide, told Reuters. "We were one of the first companies, because of our uniquely named fragrance, to recognize the opportunity that we could take at Valentine's Day with just a little more effort put into it."

For example, she said, Ralph Lauren's Romance fragrance does about 11 percent of its annual sales in February.

Robinson said the "whole package" was key to selling a fragrance, from the advertising to the in-store counter design to the shopping bags and, of course, offering a good price.

Purchase a bottle of Ralph Lauren Romance or Romance Men, for example, and you can have the signature, silver heart-shaped charms and tags—or the bottle itself—engraved with your Valentine's initials.

"Convenience and brand" is what one shopper, Steve Pothos of Long Island, New York, looks for when shopping for a fragrance. "My wife loves (Lancome's) Tresor, I was going by Macy's and stopped and got the whole gift set."

The impact of designer name brands has grown with 63 percent of 1,500 women fragrance users nationwide sampled by NPD Beauty Trends admitting that designer and celebrity names influence their fragrance purchase decisions.

NPD revealed that younger women, ages 15 to 34, are most likely to be influenced by designer names and also more inclined to purchase newer fragrances, whereas women ages 35 to 54 are most loyal to classic scents. *Reuters*

RP threatens to quit agri lobby group

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES is poised to quit the Cairns Group, one of the world's most influential lobby group for free trade in agriculture, after the country was left to fight a lonely battle with the European Community for lower duties on canned tuna from General Santos City and Mindanao.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said: "We are reconsidering our membership in the Cairns Group. We realized that while we share the same concern for free trade in agriculture, not all of our interests are aligned."

The Philippines is a charter member of the Cairns Group which was formed in 1986 during the launching of the Uruguay Round as a lobby group for international agriculture trade to prevent the United States and EC from carving up the world between them. The original 14 member-countries of Cairns account for 25 percent of global agriculture trade.

Roxas said the Philippines did not sign a Cairns Group statement after the Doha Round to show its displeasure over its peers' lack of support on the country's problem with the EC canned tuna tariffs. Roxas noted that the Philippines has consistently stood by its peers in fighting against the export subsidies and domestic price support extended by the EC and United States to their farmers.

He said that the "North and South" divide still persists in a group supposedly bound by a common cause because the rich countries and poor countries have conflicting interests. "We must not follow blindly what the Cairns Group want because there are rich countries—Canada, Australia, and New Zealand—in the group," Roxas said.

Roxas had a rude awakening in the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization last year when the majority of the Cairns Group ignored the Philippines' plea for support in its campaign to keep EC's tariffs on the country's canned tuna at par with those from African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) countries.

The EC had proposed to give zero duty to its former colonies to help their flagging economies. But this would give the ACP countries a distinct advantage versus canned tuna exports from the Philippines (one of the world's biggest tuna exporters) that are slapped 24-percent duty.

He said the EC "dangled" the preferential du-

RP/B8

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$133.7M IN JANUARY

Hot money inflow still modest

By Clarissa S. Batino

DESPITE the improving performance of the local stock market, the inflow of portfolio investments in January remained modest at $133.7 million, lower than the $246.7 million registered in the same month last year.

The inflow in January, however, outpaced the outflow of $99.6 million in the same month resulting in a net inflow of $34.1 million, or about double the year-ago level of $17.1 million.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it was expecting more portfolio funds and foreign direct investments to come in as investor confidence in the country and in the government continued to improve.

A bank analyst pointed out that January was normally a slow month for portfolio investments. What happened in 2001, he said, was very unique because of the investors' mixed reactions to the transition in the government in January last year.

This year, the inflow and outflow of portfolio investments may not be as erratic as in the previous years, the central bank said.

"When you have a stable political and economic environment as rating agencies like Moody's confirmed, we have better chances that portfolio funds will stay here longer," said a central bank official.

Foreign portfolio funds are normally invested in the stock market, government securities, mutual funds and insurance.

In January, the Philippine stock market index went up by about 19 percent, making it one of the best performing equities market in the world. Even the volume of trading increased, indicating that foreign funds have started coming back.

Last year, the country recorded a net portfolio inflow of $68.7 million, representing a sharp turnaround from a net outflow of $149 million in 2000. Hot money inflow last year was strongest during the months of January, June, September, and December while outflow was highest from February to May.

The central bank data comes from custodian banks Citibank NA, Standard & Chartered Bank, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, and ING Barings. The five foreign banks account for 95 percent of the total foreign fund flow.

The central bank, however, is relying more on the inflow of direct foreign investment to help beef up the country's dollar reserves that stood at an all-time high of $16.308 billion as of end-January.

The BSP said the direct investments of $540 million from Japanese brewer Kirin to San Miguel Corp. and the $200 million from Coca Cola to Cosmos Phils. should help the central bank maintain the level of reserves above the psychological level of $14 billion this year.

RP threatens . . .

From page B7

ties for canned tuna to lure the African countries in agreeing to the launching of a new round of trade negotiations. The rich countries want a new round to broaden free trade commitments to other areas while the developing and poor countries are reluctant to make further promises to open their markets until the previous agreements reached in the previous rounds of negotiations were fulfilled.

When the Philippines stood firm on its opposition to EC's grant of zero duties to its former colonies, Roxas said the Philippines was the only one among 140 WTO member countries which opposed the launching of a new round.

"We were squeezed in the power play and it was made to appear that we were derailing the launching of a new round of trade talks," Roxas said. Thailand, another Cairns member, later joined the Philippines, to oppose the EC's canned tuna proposal.

The Philippines' persistence paid off after the EC finally relented and promised to address the tuna problem just to keep the launching of the new round on track. He considered this as a major victory for the Philippines because this was the first time that the EC had agreed to resolve the issue after ignoring the case which has been pending in the WTO for months.

The agreement stipulated that the Philippines, Thailand and the EC have up to April next year to reach a settlement on the issue. If no compromise is reached, the EC would submit the issue to mediation under the WTO, specifically its dispute settlement proceedings.

The Philippines has a 15-percent market share of the EC's tuna exports behind the US (38 percent) and Singapore (16 percent). Philippine tuna canners are keen on the European market because it continues to grow at an annual rate of 7 percent while other markets such as the US have become stagnant.

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HONDA

HSBC says RP can raise $2.5B more

SPREADS on Philippine peso and dollar bonds will continue to tighten, allowing the government to raise as much as $2.5 billion more this year from the foreign debt market, according to Hong Kong-based investment bank HSBC Corp.

In a news briefing on Friday, HSBC Asia-Pacific debt-finance group head Mark Bucknall said the Philippines could easily get 10 percent of some $25 billion in funds that Asia was seen raising from the debt market this year.

The renewed appetite among foreign investors for Philippine debt gives Manila enough room to tap the foreign debt market for "reasonably priced" funds, he said.

"There had been a strong turnaround in Philippine credit over the last six to nine months, as gleaned from a shift in investors' sentiment following the successful global bond issue and the (Bangko Sentral) bonds," Bucknall said.

He said given the country's strong performance since last year in the bond market, every indication showed that spreads on Philippine borrowings could tighten some more.

HSBC Philippines treasurer John McGowan said in the local debt market, rates could fall by 1 to 1.5 percentage points more this year. ***Clarissa S. Batino***

RCBC to use tier-two capital

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp., the country's eighth-largest lender, has asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to approve its planned capital increase through a so-called tier-two investment.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said RCBC wrote last week to inform the central bank of its plan to issue "tier-two" notes to increase its capital base.

RCBC president Valentin Araneta said earlier RCBC wanted to raise at least P2 billion in tier-two to beef up its P13.5-billion capital.

A tier-two capital, also referred to as "subordinated debt," is an investment that behaves like a deposit because it earns a pre-determined rate, unlike a shareholder whose rate of return depends on financial performance.

RCBC is the third bank to ask the Monetary Board's approval to raise its capital through a tier-two investment.

Equitable PCI Bank Inc., the country's fourth-largest lender, earlier submitted an application to issue $100 million worth of debt notes and another P5 billion in bonds to raise its tier-two capital. The peso bonds, Equitable said, would be sold to retail investors using its network.

NEWS BRIEFS

One-day sales up 13%

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. has reported a net income of P918 million from its one-day power sales scheme last year, up 13.2 percent from a year earlier.

Napocor manager Alberto Guanzon said in a statement the increase was due to the entry of four new participants in the auctions. ***Ronnel W. Domingo***

MWSS to borrow P2B

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System said it would borrow some P2 billion from a bank to cover for Maynilad Water Services Inc.'s unpaid concession fees.

An MWSS official said Maynilad would be unable to meet a June deadline for it to resume paying concession fees, which had hit P2.78 billion. ***Christine A. Gaylican***

Napocor can't pay debts

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. is hard-pressed to raise funds to settle a $157-million loan arranged by JP Morgan Chase & Co. that will mature in July, according to documents obtained by the INQUIRER.

Data from the Department of Energy show that the loan is part of about $800 million in Napocor obligations that will mature this year. These loans were secured at the height of an energy crisis in the early 1990s.

Cebu Pacific in Korea

CEBU Pacific Air has assured the Civil Aeronautics Board that its application for a foreign air carrier's permit in South Korea is making progress, and that it will secure a permit before March 2.

"In regard to our Korean FACP, we have been assured by Korean authorities that our filing is in order. All the required documents have been submitted and processed," Cebu Pacific vice president for corporate planning and external affairs Peggy Vera said in an interview last week. ***Abigail L. Ho***

2nd Asia Pacific Executive Forum
Opportunities & Challenges:
Business Strategies in a Changing Economic Environment
March 5-7, 2002
◆Asian Institute of Management Conference Center◆

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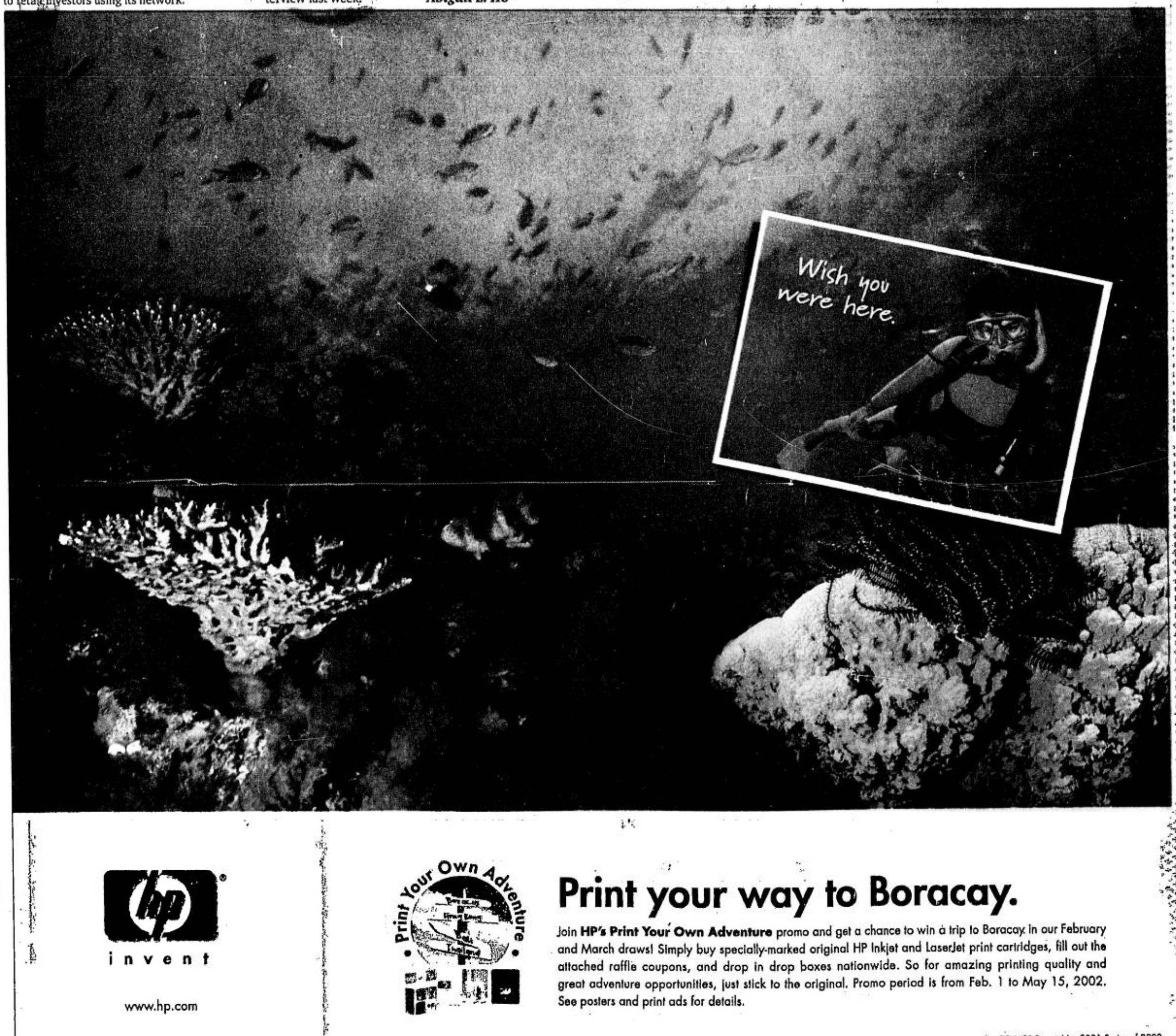

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Messages

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila

Warmest felicitations to the City Service Corporation on its being awarded the ISO 9001: 2000 Certificate.

I congratulate City Service Corporation for its meritorious accomplishments and unwavering commitment to provide quality cleaning services. Your achievement as the first and only ISO 9001 certified janitorial company in the country is laudable. The ISO certification is a confirmation of your commitment to world class operational and quality standards in your 50 years of dedicated service to the public.

I encourage you to continue your commitment to provide quality janitorial services. I urge you to seize the opportunities in the Philippine economy and to support our country's aim to win for our people the opportunities for growth and sustainable development. May the City Service Corporation serve as a role model to other janitorial service companies in promoting the quality service standards in this competitive economic environment.

I wish the success of City Service Corporation as the nation moves forward to a bright and prosperous future. My administration joins hands with the private sector in establishing the physical foundations for sustainable development and ensuring the aspirations of the Filipino people for greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

My warmest congratulations to the management of City Service Corporation for having obtained its ISO 9001 certification!

Being the first and only ISO 9001 certified cleaning and janitorial maintenance contractor in the country, I am confident that City Service is resolved to continuously improve the quality of services that it offers to its customers.

This ISO certification is a testament of City State's commitment to deliver only the highest quality of products and services at par with the requisites of the international standards and also serves as a proof of Philippine enterprises' ability to go global.

Again, congratulations!

(Sgd.) SERGIO R. ORTIZ-LUIS, JR.
President
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

FEDERATION OF PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIES, INC.

On behalf of the Federation of Philippine Industries, allow me to congratulate City Service Corporation for being the first ISO 9001: 2000 certified Cleaning and Janitorial Maintenance Contractor in the Philippines.

Your company's effort to meet world standards enables you to be globally competitive. Being ISO certified means that your company's quality management systems will ensure excellence in your delivery of service to your clientele.

Your achievements these past five decades will certainly encourage others to follow similar paths of dedication in the advancement of Philippine business.

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

On behalf of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), let me congratulate City Service Corporation for garnering the ISO 9001: 2000 certification.

This indeed adds another feather in the cap to City Service Corporation as well as ECOP to which City Service has been affiliated with through the years.

The ISO 9001: 2000 certification speaks highly of the quality management systems of City Service Corporation and the kind of leadership it has exemplified in the cleaning industry for five decades.

City Service Corporation's no nonsense dedication and commitment to excellence in service should inspire other firms to also strive in pursuit of continually improving their quality of services.

May City Service Corporation's tribe increase for the good of the country!

DONALD G. DEE
President

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PMAP)

In behalf of the PMAP Board 2002, let me convey to the Officers and Staff of City Service Corporation my sincerest congratulations on the Company's ISO 9001 certification.

I can well-understand the planning, preparation and execution required of companies seeking ISO 9001 certification having experienced first hand the tedious process in the company I work with. The hard work, especially the efforts exerted on documenting every aspect of operations as well as in detailing all the procedures, is worthy of recognition. Such certification will all the more enhance City Service's image as a janitorial maintenance company providing the highest quality service.

As you are a member of PMAP, we are proud that you are in our roster of members. We wish you well in all your undertakings. More power!

ERNESTO G. ESPINOSA
President

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF BUILDING ADMINISTRATORS, INC.

The Philippine Association of Building Administrators, Inc. (PABA), jointly with the Condominium Management Association of the Philippines, Inc. (CMAP) and the Industrial Facilities Management Association of the Philippines, Inc. (IFMAP) congratulate the CITY SERVICE CORPORATION, for receiving the recognition as the country's first and only janitorial maintenance contractor in the industry that has been assessed and registered by the International Standardization Organization (ISO) to earn the:

ISO-9001-2000 (E) Certification

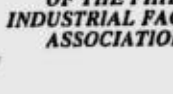
The CITY SERVICE CORPORATION'S more than five (5) decades of leadership in the cleaning industry in the Philippines is back by the 25 Years of PABA as the leading organization in the building and property management industry of the Philippines.

This is an affirmation of City Service Corporation that pioneered the most technically advanced cleaning and janitorial maintenance contractor delivering the highest quality in the janitorial maintenance service industry.

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF BUILDING ADMINISTRATORS, INC. (PABA)
CONDOMINIUM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (CMAP)
INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (IFMAP)

VAL S. ABENG
Founding President

CITY SERVICE CORPORATION



It is with great pride that I accept the ISO 9001: 2000 certification awarded to City Service Corporation as I congratulate my officers, staff and project personnel who have worked very hard to meet the stringent ISO requirements.

This ISO certification is a confirmation of our leadership in the quest to transform the country's janitorial industry into a professional and world class one. It also affirms our foremost commitment to continuously upgrade our quality standards and search for better ways to serve the cleaning needs of our valued clients.

I thank all the men and women of City Service Corporation for their fervent efforts in acquiring the ISO certification as well as my clients who, for more than 50 years, remain loyal and continue to give us the opportunity to prove that we deliver nothing but the best service.

VALENTIN PRIETO, JR.
President

Congratulations!

CITY SERVICE CORPORATION

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(l-r) CSC-ISO Committee: Peter Raymond M. Lacandula, Roger S. Villanueva, Noel S. Marucut, Danny E. Villate, Committee Chairman, Dingg V. Gonzaga, Alex S. Payawal

The renowned TUV RHEINLAND PHILIPPINES recently certified that the QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS of City Service Corporation have been assessed and registered against the requirements of:

DIN EN ISO 9001: 2000 (E)

CITY SERVICE CORPORATION was established in February, 1950 to provide Janitorial Maintenance Services. City Service is also the first and only ISO 9001: 2000 (E) certified Cleaning and Janitorial Maintenance Contractor in the Philippines.

City Service offers Janitorial Maintenance Services, High Rise Window & Wall Cleaning, Specialty Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning and Gardening & Grounds Maintenance Services.

City Service is resolved to continually improve the quality of its services and to keep abreast with the latest developments in sanitation and property maintenance technology.

TÜV CERT

CERTIFICATE

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certifies in accordance with TÜV CERT procedures that

City Service Corporation
147 Williams St., Pasay City 1300, Philippines

has established and applies a quality system for

Janitorial Services Management

An audit was performed, Report No. 019596
Proof has been furnished that the requirements according to

DIN EN ISO 9001:2000

are fulfilled.
The certificate is valid until 2004 December
Certificate Registration No. 01 100 019596

TÜV

TÜV CERT

證 書

The TÜV CERT Certification Body of TÜV Anlagentechnik GmbH
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茲此依 TÜV CERT程序證明

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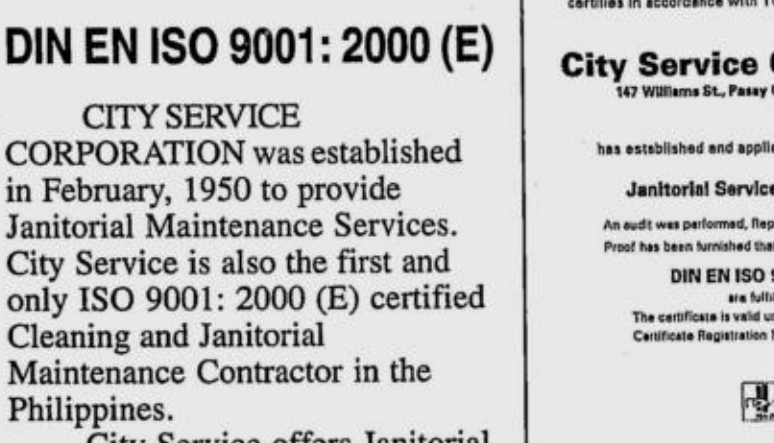

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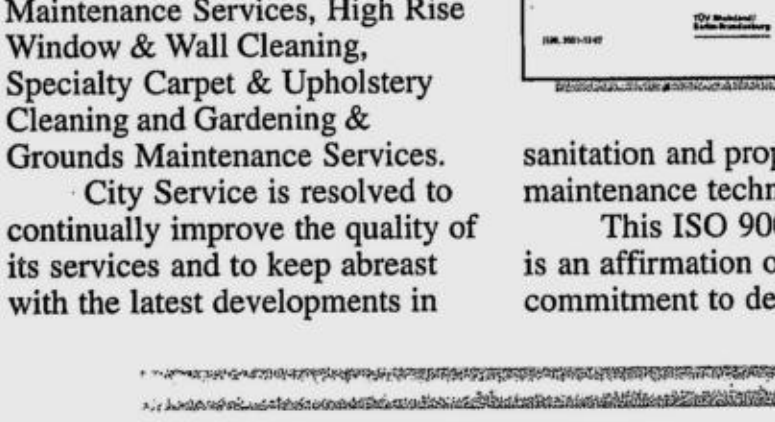
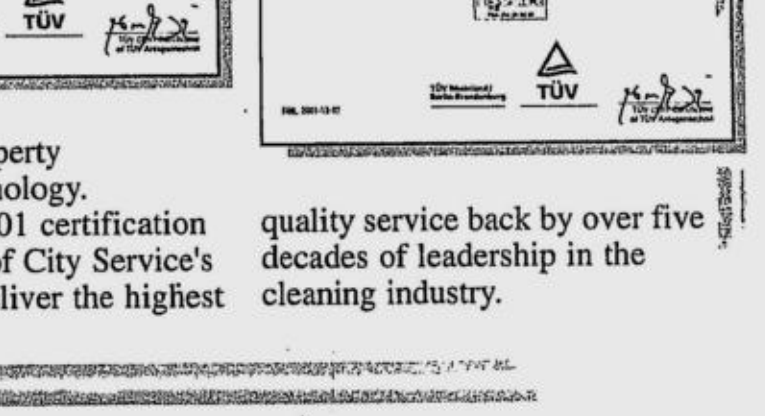


Janitorial and Maintenance Services



Specialty Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Services

High Rise Window & Wall Cleaning Services

Gardening & Grounds Maintenance Services

RP to tap Japan bond market to raise $400M

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is set to return to the Japanese global bond market within the first half of the year to raise some $400 million in funds to finance the budget deficit and the requirements of the National Power Corp.

An informed source said the Japan Bank for International Cooperation had approved in principle a loan guarantee being sought by the Philippine government.

A full guarantee from the JBIC will make the government's borrowing less expensive since the issuer will assume the credit rating of the guarantor. The government explained that the cost of the guarantee would be more than offset by the tighter spreads on the borrowing.

The last time the government tapped the Japanese market was in November when it borrowed 50 billion yen (roughly $390 million) through a *shibosai*, which was partly guaranteed by the Nippon Export and Investment.

The source noted that the JBIC was preparing to sign the guarantee in May, in time for the Tokyo visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The government has yet to decide whether to tap the *shibosai* market again or the public bond investors through a *samurai* float.

The Japanese borrowing will follow a $400-million, seven-year global bond issue that the government is set to conclude with JP Morgan Chase and Bear Steans & Co. in the next two weeks.

Both borrowings will help complete the national government's $1.5 billion requirement this year and Napocor's $1 billion funding needs.

A government source said that proceeds of any sovereign borrowings could be used either to finance this year's P130-billion budget deficit or to meet Napocor's requirements.

The government has so far borrowed $1.05 billion to finance its 2002 requirements. The amount include $500 million worth of global bonds, $388 million worth of *shibosai* and $117 million worth of one-year dollar treasury bills.

Napocor's planned $500-million global bond issue, which was supposed to be handled by JP Morgan and Bear Stearns, was withdrawn two weeks ago because of prohibitive pricing.

Sources said the investors were seeking a return on Napocor's debt of one percentage point higher than the average spreads on the government's direct borrowings.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said last week that if the power firm's direct borrowing would be very expensive, the government would have to assume the responsibility of raising Napocor's remaining funding requirement of $750 million.

Also in the pipeline during the first semester is the $100 million to $200 million worth of bonds to be sold to overseas Filipino workers. The government also intends to issue about P10 billion worth of retail treasury bonds and P5 billion to P15 billion worth of 25-year bonds.

For the second half of the year, the government is considering doing another $200 million worth of dollar-to-peso swap similar to the $220 million worth of swaps handled by HSBC last year.

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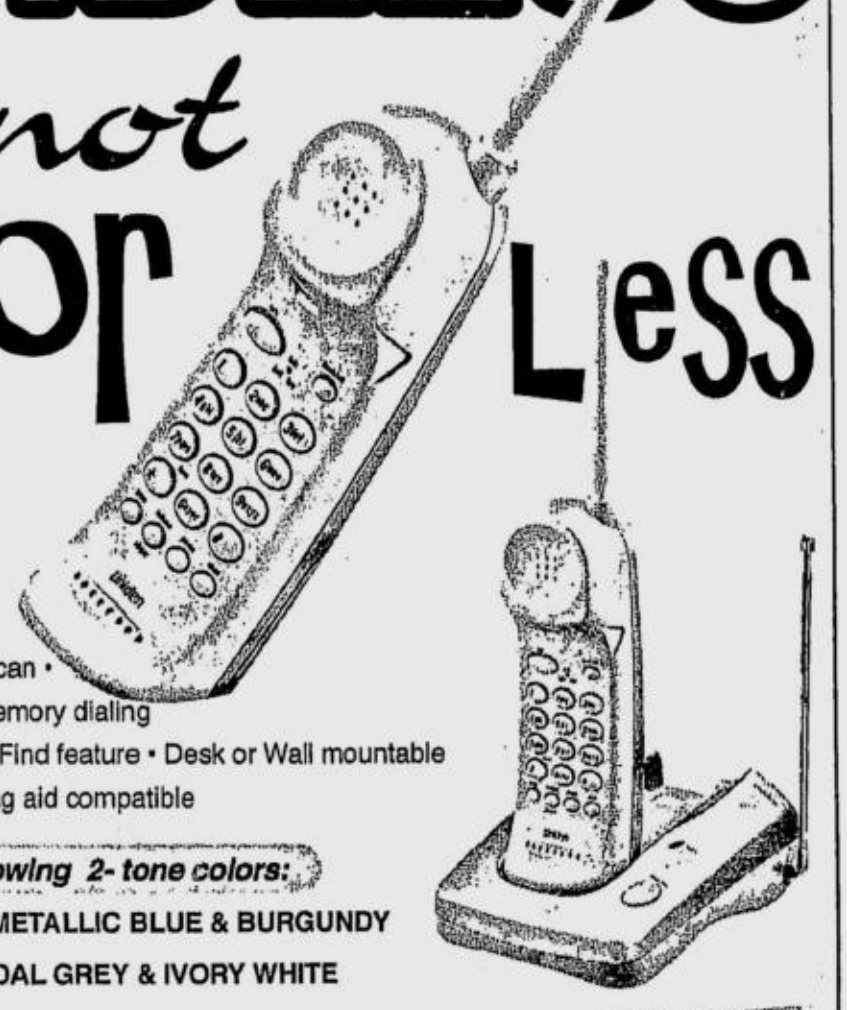

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* SMS Gaming: An IMGame Case Study
* Web-SMS Messaging: A Chikka.com Case Study
* Surviving Dotcom Crash (Part 1)

March 21, 2002
* Introduction to Open Catalogue Interface: Making e-Commerce easy for Suppliers
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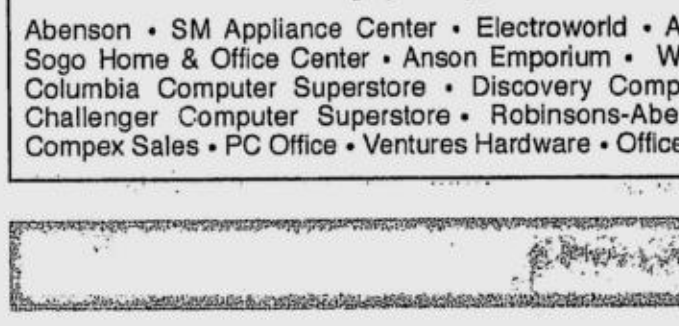

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People, Events & Products

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
Aries Espinosa, Editor

77 companies join UST job fair

77 COMPANIES will join the University of Santo Tomas 7th annual Job Fair from Feb. 12 to 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Covered Walk in front of the UST Hospital.

Organized by the UST Public and Alumni Affairs Office (PAAO), the job fair—dubbed Jobs 02—aims to extend career assistance to the University's alumni and graduating students by developing partnerships with various corporate establishments.

The three-day fair will feature an exhibit of companies from different industries and a career seminar for graduating Thomasian studens. Serving as an extension of the participating companies' recruitment activity, Jobs 02 will also be a venue for company testing as facilitated by human resource representatives.

Set to celebrate its quadricentennial in 2011, UST remains committed to the mission of providing its students with excellent Catholic education that is responsive to the challenges of the information technology age. It has produced graduates who comprise and are considered human resource assets of various corporations here and abroad.

The 77 participating companies come from the banking and finance, real estate, telecommunications, food, academic, media, insurance, clothing, e-commerce, industrial, automotive and information technology sectors.

Jobs 02 was organized in cooperation with the Bank of the Philippine Islands, Rough Rider Jeans, and the different faculties, colleges, departments and offices of the University. Alumni and graduating Thomasian students are enjoined to take part. For further inquiries, call the PAAO at 731-3101 local 8315 or 731-3544.

TECH TRAINING EXCHANGE PROGRAM
Meralco Foundation Inc (MFI) and the Mutual Assistance for Philippine Professionals (MAPP) Foundation signed an agreement for the latter to conduct free Nippongo classes for MFI scholars and staff as well as MAPP scholars for job training in Japanese companies for eventual hiring. Shown is MFI president Col. Alejandro T. Escaño (left) shaking hands with MAPP president Hajime Mori. Witnessing the event are, from left, Marjorie Mendenilla, VP of MFI; Leo Felipe, assistant to the president of MFI; Joji Fider, VP for organization of MFI, Arnel Sanchez (partly hidden), executive secretary of MAPP; Manolo Santos, assistant to the VP of MFI, and Raquel Soriano, executive director of MAPP.

ALCATEL E-COMMUNICATIONS
Alcatel e-Business networking division Asia Pacific product marketing manager Marc-Alexis Remond presents to the media its new e-communication appliance—the OmniPCX Office—during a briefing held recently at the New World Hotel in Makati City. Designed for small and medium-sized companies, the Alcatel OmniPCX Office is a communications system that combines voice and data, Internet access, e-mail, voicemail and faxmail, as well as security solutions in an "all-in-a-box" solution.

BITS Clips

Samsung's sound revolution in a phone

YOU'VE SEEN a cellphone, you've seen them all, right? Samsung proves that wrong when it launches a new model that promises to change the way Filipinos look at—and hear—their mobile phones. The new cellphone will be unveiled during a grand launch at the NBC Tent at The Fort today, Feb. 11, and will touch a chord among text-crazed Filipinos. In a music-loving country where karaoke is king and Broadway stars are discovered, Samsung is confident that its innovative new phone will immediately gain popularity.

Southeastern College at 56

THERE'S something cooking at the Southeastern College in Pasay City, and it definitely smells fun. Celebrating its 56th foundation anniversary from Feb. 11 to 15, the SEC administration is cooking up a host of activities. True Faith performs back-to-back with Legatto on Feb. 14 at 9 p.m. The lineup of activities include the Grade School and High School Family Day, Bingo Sosyalan, Battle of the Bands. SEC is recognized as the only Microsoft authorized academic training provider (AATP) in the Philippines. For inquiries and details, call 834-5052, 831-8484, and 551-5693, or visit www.southeastern.com.ph.

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce in Manila

WITH THE continuing interest of companies from the United Kingdom in investment and trade opportunities in the Philippines, the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce arrives in Manila today, Feb. 11, for a four-day trade mission. The mission is supported by the British Embassy Manila and Trade Partners UK, the United Kingdom's trade promotion body, and comprises Belliss & Morcom Ltd., Brushworld, Converting Technology Ltd., NCE Switchgear, Natural Resources International, Ontel Ltd., RC Treatt & Co Ltd., Skatoskalo International Ltd., TEAMtalk Satellite Ltd., Thomas Broadbent & Son Ltd., and Wicksteed Engineering Ltd. Companies interested in meeting with the mission members should call the commercial section of the British Embassy at 816-7116, fax 815-6233, or e-mail uktrade@info.com.ph.

Pfizer-PHC info center opens

AS PART of its global commitment to fight coronary diseases, Pfizer Inc., in cooperation with the Philippine Heart Center (PHC) and the Philippine Heart Center Medical Alumni Society (PHCMAS), will inaugurate the Patient Information Center on Feb. 13 with Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit as guest of honor. The inauguration of the new facility, located at the eighth floor of the Medical Arts Building of the PHC in Quezon City, coincides with the celebration of the Heart Month. The center will be open to patients, doctors and paramedical professionals who want to do research on the latest scientific developments concerning heart disorders.

US PAVILION AT HOME & GARDEN 2002
The US Commercial Service and H&G International, a division of Leverage International, signed recently the contract for Home & Garden 2002. This is the international exhibition on home and garden goods to be held from Sept. 19 to 21, at the World Trade Center in Metro Manila. The US Commercial Service will be organizing a US Pavilion in the show. Shown from right are Cleo A. Alday, senior commercial specialist of the US Commercial Service; Robert A. Sanchez, president of H&G International; George E. Ruffner, counselor for commercial affairs of the US Commercial Service, and Rolland A. Sanchez, VP of Leverage International.

VENTURE FOR FUND RAISING HOSTS DINNER
Venture for Fund Raising, a non-profit organization providing consulting, public information, research and training assistance on fund raising to non-profit organizations, hosted a dinner recently for the participants of a seven-country research project on giving and fund raising in Asia. The first-ever regional initiative of its kind, the project workshop was participated in by researchers, academics, and non-profit managers from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines, and supported by the Asian Development Bank, United States Agency for International Development (USAid), the Nippon Foundation, and The Asia Foundation through the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium (APPC). Project management support was provided by Venture for Fund Raising. Shown (from left) are Jaime Faustino, Venture for Fund Raising board chair, Patricia Buckles, USAid mission director, Kus Hardjanti, NGO specialist from the NGO Center of ADB, and Barnett Baron, executive vice president of The Asia Foundation and co-chair of APPC.

NASSAU KOREA APPOINTS SPORTS RESOURCES
Nassau Sports Co. Ltd. of Korea recently appointed Sports Resources Inc. (SRI) as the new official exclusive Philippine distributor of Nassau basketballs, volleyballs and tennis balls. Shown sealing the agreement with a handshake are SRI president Rod Claudio (third from left) and Nassau International sales department general manager J.M. Kim. Looking on are (from left) Nassau sales team general manager Kwang Soo Kim, J.H. Kim, and SRI product manager Liza Enciso. SRI is also the exclusive Philippine distributor of products such as Eastpak backpacks, Rollerblade in-line skates, WinMau darts, Minnesota cue sticks and Prince racquets, among others. Nassau was launched in 1971 and had grown rapidly to become one of the most favored sporting goods brands worldwide. Today, Nassau is produced in 42 countries and has become synonymous with sports in Korea. For dealerships, call 671-9765.

TIM, DIEBOLD BRING IN ELECTRONIC VOTING
Total Information Management (TIM) Corp and Diebold Inc. recently inked an international distributorship agreement to bring in an electronic voting and counting system for the country's various elections and plebiscites. Shown signing the alliance are (from left) Don Monfort, TIM Corp. business development officer for North America; Tony Pelaez, TIM Corp. vice president for public sector; Lamberto F. L. Lorenzo, TIM Corp. senior vice president; Gavin G. Cushmann, Diebold Inc. director for international sales operations and support, and Kenny Ooi, Diebold product manager for Asia-Pacific region.

PROVIDENT PLANS FULFILLS COMMITMENTS
Ma. Cristina A. Mercado (left), senior sales manager, hands over a P150,000 check representing the lump sum pension to planholder Manual M. Ohao. Also shown is Enrique B. Astrolabio (right), assistant vice president for finance and comptroller. Provident has a trust fund of more than P700 million.

Catering seminar set

CATERERS and restaurateurs planning to start or manage a catering business are invited to ProActive Center for Training's (PACT) Managing a Catering Business Seminar-Workshop from Feb. 11 to 20 at the Centerpoint Chef, third floor of the Centerpoint Condominium, Julia Vargas Avenue corner Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City from 1 to 5 p.m. The training features lectures and hands-on workshops on legal requirements; planning the menu, equipment and staffing; cost control; room arrangements; napkin folding and table skirting, among others. Reservations are being accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis at 823-4947, 0919-5500601, or at e-mail pactserv@info.com.ph. Visit www.info.com.ph/~pactserv.

PAPSD 1-DAY SEMINAR
The Philippine Association of Private School Dentists conducted a one-day seminar recently at the Unilab Bayanihan Hall. PAPSD will subsequently conduct quarterly seminars to all members. Shown are the officers and members of PAPSD headed by its president Dr. Flor S. Enriquez and president-elect Dr. Georly Bofill-Tecson.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2002

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PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle. Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire, it has never been known to fail; so be sure you really want what you ask.

PHILIPPINE 2000

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)
BATASAN PAMBANSA COMPLEX, CONSTITUTION HILLS
QUEZON CITY

09 January 2002

Administrative Order
No. 19
Series of 2002

SUBJECT: *Implementing Rules and Regulations on Foreign Donations under Section 105 (I) of the revised Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines*

WHEREAS, Section 105 paragraph "I" of the Revised Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines as amended, provides that "Imported articles donated to or for the account of any duly registered relief organization upon certification by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) or the Department of Education, Culture and Sports as the case may be" shall be exempt from the payment of import duties;

WHEREAS, Section 1 of the Republic Act No. 4653, otherwise known as *An Act to Safeguard the Health of the People and Maintain the Dignity of the Nation by Declaring it a National Policy to Prohibit the Commercial Importation of Textile Articles Commonly Known as Used Clothing and Rags*, provides that it shall be unlawful for any person, association or corporation to introduce into any point in the Philippines textile articles commonly known as used clothing and rags except when these are imported under paragraph "I" of Section 105 of Republic Act No. 1933, Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it has been observed that there is an increasing number of organization receiving donations from foreign sources, particularly used clothing, which have reportedly resulted in the influx of used clothing in the open market; and, as such, DSWD Department Order No. 28, Series of 1999 was issued, holding in abeyance all application of duty free entry of non-commercial quantities of used clothing;

WHEREAS, there is a need to strictly regulate and monitor donations of imported articles to duly accredited relief organization to ensure that these articles shall be received exclusively and entirely by the intended beneficiaries, and that these articles will not find their way in the open market for sale, so as not to jeopardize our economy;

NOW THEREFORE, to properly and effectively enforce the provisions of Section 109 (I) of the Revised Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), these implementing guidelines are hereby promulgated.

SECTION 1. Definition of Terms - For purpose of this Administrative Order, the following terms shall be defined as:

(a) Relief - is the provision of interventions to alleviate, ease and/or mitigate a distressed, stressful and/or critical situation affecting persons, families, groups or communities.

(b) Donated Imported Articles - are food and non-food items, except used clothing, that are responsive to any situation affecting disadvantaged or distressed individuals and families in order to meet their basic needs. This may also be termed as"foreign donations."

(c) Non-Commercial Quantity of Relief Goods - refers to the volume of food and non-food items that are donated, not in excess of the amount needed by the beneficiaries as specified in the relief distribution plan of the organization as approved by the DSWD Field Office(s) concerned.

(d) Duly Registered Relief Organization - is an organization duly registered or licensed or accredited by DSWD.

(e) Outer Port - is any port of entry within the Philippines other than the Port of Manila (POM), Manila International Container Port (MICP) and Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

(f) Packing List - an itemized list of goods/articles with corresponding volume/units sent to recipient.

(g) Approved Plan - is a duly notarized plan of distribution of donated goods, prepared by the agency, confirmed by the social welfare office and endorsed by the DSWD Field Office.

SECTION 2. General Guidelines - The following general guidelines shall govern all foreign donations consigned to relief organizations;

(a) Only duly registered relief organizations may apply for a certification for duty free entry of foreign donations.

(b) The local government units (LGUs) need not go through the DSWD as their importations are covered by Section 1205 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP) which provides that all importations by the government, for its own use, or that of its subordinate branches and instrumentalities, owned and controlled by the government, shall be subject to duties, taxes, fees and other charges provided for in the TCCP.

(c) The duly registered organizations shall consult with the concerned DSWD Field Offices for the confirmation and approval of their plan of distribution before negotiating for or accepting any foreign donations. The concerned DSWD Field Offices shall confirm and approve the plan of distribution, stating the specific purposes, areas of distribution, and the kind and volume of goods relevant to the identified purposes.

(d) The concerned DSWD Field Offices shall forward all applications to the Standards Bureau. The latter shall review and evaluate such request before any appropriate action is endorsed or recommended by the SB Director to the Undersecretary for Management and Operations. Whenever appropriate, the Undersecretary for Management and Operations shall then endorse such request for the entry of the foreign donations into the Philippines free of duty to the Department of Finance (DOF).

(e) In cases where an organization operates nationwide, said organization shall secure approval from each Field Office having jurisdiction over the area where the distribution of goods shall take place. The DSWD shall not allow organizations with specific areas of operation, to expand their area of coverage for the purpose of accepting foreign donations.

(f) Foreign donations for release at the Outer Ports shall be under the authority of the Field Office concerned and the Standards Bureau (SB).

(g) Items not listed in the packing list or in excess of the approved plans shall not be released to the consignee. After compliance with the pertinent provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, and other approved laws, rules and regulations (under Section 3602. Various Fraudulent Practices Against Customs Revenue) the same shall be forfeited in favor of the Philippine Government. Notice on this shall be given to the Bureau of Customs (BOC), and the Department of Finance (DOF), subject to existing laws.

(h) Each shipment should not exceed a quarter's requirement of the organization's relief program, except when there is a state of calamity that requires a bigger volume of goods.

(i) Goods subject of request for duty free entry shall be assessed and endorsed by the DSWD Field Office where the duly registered relief organizations are based.

i. Goods that are subject of applications for entry into the Philippines free of duty shall be limited to non-commercial quantity of relief commodities that are necessary to accomplish the objectives of the social welfare and development programs and services.

ii. Importation of all goods shall be supported by the required documents as mentioned in Section 4 of this Administrative Order, including contracts/ agreements if there are any, and shall not violate existing laws or policies and guidelines governing such importation.

iii. If goods to be donated are medicines, a certification by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) of the Department of Health (DOH) is required, stating the purpose of the medicines and the fact that the same may be used by the intended beneficiaries without the need of a prior prescription.

iv. All the subject goods shall be for free distribution exclusively to the identified clients of the duly registered relief organizations.

v. Donation/Importation of used clothing shall be strictly prohibited in order to safeguard the health of the people and maintain the dignity of the nation.

(j) The DSWD shall transact only with the organizations concerned or their duly authorized representatives. Recipient organizations shall make the necessary representations and follow-up of the request for endorsement from the DSWD.

(k) Agencies or organizations, to whom a duty free certification is issued, shall submit to the Field Office concerned a status report of the distribution or utilization of commodities in accordance with approved/submitted plans, indicating: (a) the category and number of recipients, (b) areas covered and (c) the purpose. This report must be certified by the duly authorized representatives of DSWD, and/or Local Government Unit, and submitted within one (1) month from withdrawal from the Bureau of Customs. Thereafer, a report of utilization shall be submitted monthly thereafter until all the donated goods are utilized or distributed, as the case may be. Non-submission of the utilization report shall be a ground for refusal of certification for duty-free entry of succeeding donations or revocation of Certificate of Accreditation.

(l) Foreign donors or resource agencies shall consign their donations only to duly registered relief organization by the DSWD, and in certain cases, to DSWD. Re-consignment of the goods that have already arrived shall not be allowed pursuant to Memorandum Order dated March 21, 1998 issued by the Department of Finance.

(m) All releases, whether or not the port of entry is Manila, shall require the presence and signature of the duly authorized representative of the DSWD.

SECTION 3. Standard Condition - All applications for duty-free importation must comply with all the rules, regulations and conditions imposed by the DOF, and in addition, shall be subject to the following conditions:

(a) All the necessary clearances from the appropriate government agencies shall be secured by the registered relief organization.

(b) The goods shall be guarded or escorted by the authorized representatives of the Bureau of Customs and the DSWD directly from the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to the warehouse of the duly registered relief organization.

(c) The opening, stripping, inventory and distribution shall be fully documented by DSWD, which shall include photo documentation.

(d) The distribution of all donations shall be monitored by the DSWD and documented by the donee, using the relief distribution sheets. A notarized copy of the summary report of the distribution, as well as photo documentation, shall be submitted to the DSWD Central Office, through the concerned Field Office, as basis for validating the distribution of donations.

(e) Such other conditions that the DSWD may impose to ensure that the objectives of this Administrative Order wil be achieved.

SECTION 4. Requirements - To facilitate the issuance of certification for duty free release of foreign donation, the following documents (in three (3) copies each), shall be submitted to the DSWD at least two weeks prior the scheduled arrival of the donation:

1. Certificate or Deed of Donation duly authenticated by the Philippine Consular Office of the country of origin, with accompanying certificate as to fitness of food and medicine for consumption.
2. A separate duly notarized Deed of Acceptance by the donee;
3. Valid and subsisting License/Accreditation/Registration Certificate issued by DSWD;
4. Shipping documents such as original and/or duly certified true copy of Bill of Lading and Packing List;
5. Duly notarized Plan of Distribution, certified and endorsed by the DSWD Regional Office(s).
6. In case of medicines, a certification from the Department of Health that the commodities are allowed for free distribution and use;
7. Duly notarized distribution report on latest shipment, certified correct by the concerned DSWD Field Office;
8. In case of relief items other than food and medicines, proof of prior agreements or approved arrangements with the appropriate government agencies.

SECTION 5. Pursuant to the first paragraph of Section 105 of the Revised Tariff and Customs Code, " any article sold, bartered, hired or used for purpose other than that they were intended for without prior payment of the duty tax and other charges which would have been due and payable at the time of entry if the article had been entered without the benefit of this section, shall be subject to forfeiture and the importation shall constitute a fraudulent practice against customs revenue punishable under Section Thirty Six Hundred and Two, as amended of this Code. Further, paragraph two of Section 3602 of the said Code provides that,... "in addition to the punitive action of confiscation (forfeiture) of the imported goods the law has provided that the guilty party should also suffer by paying a fine and a temporary loss of liberty; and if the offender is an alien, he is subject to deportation after serving his sentence."

Violations of any of the above conditions shall bar certification for duty free entry of succeeding donations, and shall subject the organizations to revocation of its certificate of accreditation and/or its concerned officers or members to criminal, civil and administrative sanctions.

Non compliance with the rules and regulations shall subject the organization concerned to the penalties provided by law, the suspension or cancellation of its license or accreditation as a welfare relief agency, as well as the loss of tax exemption privilege, after due investigation, in accordance with the Tariff Customs Code.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause - If any provision of these Implementing rules and regulations is held invalid or unconstitutional. The other provisions not so declared shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately and shall supercede Department Order No. 11, series of 1994; Department Order No. 12, Series of 1995; Department Order No. 02, Series of 1996; Department Order No. 01, Series of 1999 and Department Order No. 04, Series of 1999.

(Sgd.) **CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN**
DSWD Secretary

(PDI–Feb. 11, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
National Maternity Hospital
corner Lope de Vega St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telephone Nos. 734-55-61 to 65

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested accredited bidders/suppliers to pre-qualify and to bid for the following items:

	Submission of Pre-qualification Requirements	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference 2:00 p.m.	Public Bidding 2:00 p.m.
SERVICE CONTRACTS:				
I. RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT a. Hematology Analyzer b. Chemistry Analyzer c. Elisa Machine d. ABG Machine e. Ventilator Machine	Feb. 19, 20, 21	Feb. 25, 26, 27	March 4	March 8
II. BIOMEDICAL WASTE SERVICES	Feb. 19, 20, 21	Feb. 27-28	March 6	March 11

Pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the DJFMH-PBEC Secretariat on February 13, 14 & 15, 2002.

All interested bidders are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on the above-stated schedule at the Reception Hall, DJFMH. Failure to attend the Pre-bid Conference will automatically disqualify participation in the bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by bid security equivalent to 2 1/2% of the total bid price but not to exceed Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) which may be in the form of GSIS bond, cash, manager's check or bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank or any combination thereof.

The DJRMH-PBEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal, as evaluated, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MARIETA R. SIONGCO, M.D., CESO V**
Chief, Medical Professional Staff II
Chairman, PBEC

(PDI--Feb. 9, 10 & 11, 2002)

National Power Corporation
Small Power Utilities Group
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

For the SALE of UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS
"as is, where is"

Date of Bid Opening : February 25, 2002

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
HULL BODY - consists of unserviceable/junk hull body of NPC Power Barge 112 located/ docked at Naga, Cebu Year Mfd.: 1992 Dimensions of Barge: Length : 24.58 meters Breadth : 10.37 meters Depth : 2.60 meters Draft : 1.8 meters	P 1,734,300.00

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 10:00 AM on **February 25, 2002** at the NPC-SPUG Office, 2/F Training Center Bldg., NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE; and
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2000) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)
3. CERTIFICATE OF SITE INSPECTION ISSUED BY THE MANAGER, SPBOD, SPUG-VISAYAS.

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Ms. P. F. VICTORIA at the above address or call tel. No. 9228449/ 9213541 Local 5583. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 1:00 PM on **February 22, 2002.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

(Sgd.) **R. C. CASTILLO**
Chairman

(PDI--Feb. 11, 12 & 13, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG KORPORASYON SA ELEKTRISIDAD
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. PD 2002-04

Bidding Date: February 28, 2002 - 10:00 AM
Pre-bid Conference: February 22, 2002 - 2:00 PM
(NPC Fiesta Hall Conference Room)

SUPPLY OF LABOR, TOOLS/EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES/MATERIALS AND SUPERVISION FOR JOBS RELATED TO JANITORIAL/ LANDSCAPE AND INDOOR PLANTS MAINTENANCE SERVICES AT NPC-OBC, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

Schedule IV - Landscape/Indoor Plants Maintenance Services

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the NPC Fiesta Hall, Conference Room, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms/documents are available on **February 11, 2002** at the Accreditation, Bidding and IT Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P500.00 which is non-refundable. Last day of submission of application for eligibility forms/ documents is on **February 15, 2002.**

Issuance of eligibility forms/documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. For inquiries please call no. **921-2574.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

PBAC JANITORIAL/LANDSCAPE & INDOOR PLANTS MAINTENANCE SERVICES
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - Feb. 11, 2002)

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB No. 02-020-02

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

CONTRACT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LRT LINE 1 SYSTEM

Bid documents can be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City, during regular office hours on **February 21, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference shall be held on **March 7, 2002** at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Pasay City.

The BAC Secretariat shall receive sealed bids not later than **March 22, 2002**, Friday, 10:00 a.m.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to the LRTA.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MELCHOR M. ALONZO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 11 & 12, 2002)

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone 8931320 loc 5115 Fax 8401461

INVITATION TO BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested accredited or prequalified contractors to submit sealed bids for the project:

ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR RENTAL OF PHOTOCOPYING MACHINES EDC 02-007

Bid documents may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o I. M. CORCUERA) starting JANUARY 28, 2002 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (P500.00).

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of FEBRUARY 26, 2002 and then publicly opened immediately thereafter.

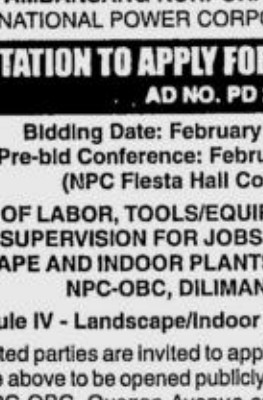
For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on February 15, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the CAC Conference Rm., Ground Flr., Building 5, PNOC-EDC, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **Ester R. Guerzon**
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI–Feb. 11, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to inform the public that **JOSEPH REJUSO** (with picture above & whose last address is at Koronadal City) is no longer connected with **RAPID RIME ENGINEERING** effective **December 31, 2001** together with **SONNY MENDOZA, ROMEO SARNOSOS, LINO TIBOBOS, ARNEL BELMONTE** and **HONORIO SUNIO** effective **January 15, 2002.**

Any transaction made by them on behalf of the company shall not be honored.

(PDI - Feb. 11, 2002)

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Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, my servant also will be.
John 12:16

Our Dearly Beloved

LUIS "BONG" DELGADO CATINDIG

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 10, 2002 at the age of 51.

We, his family, beloved wife **CORA**; children **CEDRIC, ERIC** and **GRACE ANNE**; daughter-in-law **RIO**; and grandchildren. Father **NATOY**; brother and sister **CECILLE, ODIE, NORMAN, RICKY** and **JUN**. Friends and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at 260 Barangay Makinabang, Baliuag, Bulacan.

Interment will be on February 13, 2002, 2:00 p.m. at United Memorial Park, Taal, Pulilan, Bulacan.

LEGION OF MARY

Senatus of Northern Philippines

Mourns with deep sorrow the passing away of

SIS. PACITA DIAZ SANTOS

May 25, 1912 - February 9, 2002
Co-Founder of the Legion of Mary in the Philippines

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 13, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

Members of the Legion of Mary, relatives, friends and the pious readers are requested to offer prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
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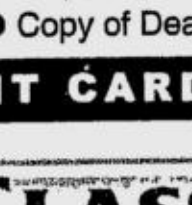

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INQUIRER RiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Nitty-gritty

Q. Why do we say *nitty-gritty* to mean 'the actual, basic facts, elements, or issues?'

A. The usual phrase is *get down to the nitty-gritty*, meaning 'to discuss essential matters,' which first became popular in the US in the 1960s. No one is certain as to the exact origin of the slangy, rhyming expression, but the top theory is that *nitty-gritty* refers to the unclean scalp of a person living in squalor. A layer of *grit* (dirt) and a colony of *nits* (lice) tend to build up under the hair in such conditions, so if someone got down to the *nitty-gritty*, he was originally, perhaps, scratching at his scalp with his nails. From that image came the more general idea of probing beneath external appearances to reach the underlying problem.

Ooops! Monkeys normally search other's hair or fur not because they are looking for parasites. Although this so-called grooming behavior may produce an occasional insect treat, the monkeys are actually looking for much desired bits of salt that have exuded through the pores of the skin and have dried out under the hair.

Pinoy First. The first talking Tagalog movie was *Punyal na Ginto* (Golden Dagger), produced in 1933 and based on the popular novel by Antonio Sempio. It was also the first Filipino film with sound in its entirety. Directed by cinema pioneer Jose Nepomuceno, *Punyal na Ginto* starred Alma Bella, Carlos Padilla, Tina del Rosario, and Paco Zamora.

WORD WATCH

Riposte (ri powst') : a sharp, swift retort; from a swift thrust in fencing made after parrying an opponent's lunge.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2002

Car sales surged 19% in January

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE LOCAL automotive industry is off to a sluggish start this year as sales slipped by 4 percent in January with mixed results for commercial vehicles and passenger cars.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers Association of the Philippines Inc. reported that sales fell to 5,508 units in January from 5,736 during the same period last year.

Surprisingly, passenger cars jumped 19 percent to 1,923 units in January from 1,613 units a year ago.

The introduction of new models last year has apparently injected renewed interest in this segment as it posted one of its highest monthly growth rates since 1998.

However, commercial vehicles, which account for 65 percent of the market, slumped 13 percent to 3,585 last month from 4,123 a year ago.

Assemblers blamed the influx of used passenger vans, pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles from abroad for the slowdown in demand for brand new commercial vehicles.

But while these second-hand vehicles come cheap versus brand new units, Campi has questioned whether they are safe to drive on the road.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. remained as the No. 1 assembler overall with a 26-percent market share due to its robust sales in both the passenger car and commercial vehicle categories. It was No. 2 in both passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. was second with an overall market share of 22 percent as it took pole position in the commercial vehicle segment. Honda Cars Philippines Inc. was third with a market share of 12.2 percent boosted mainly by its dominant position in passenger cars.

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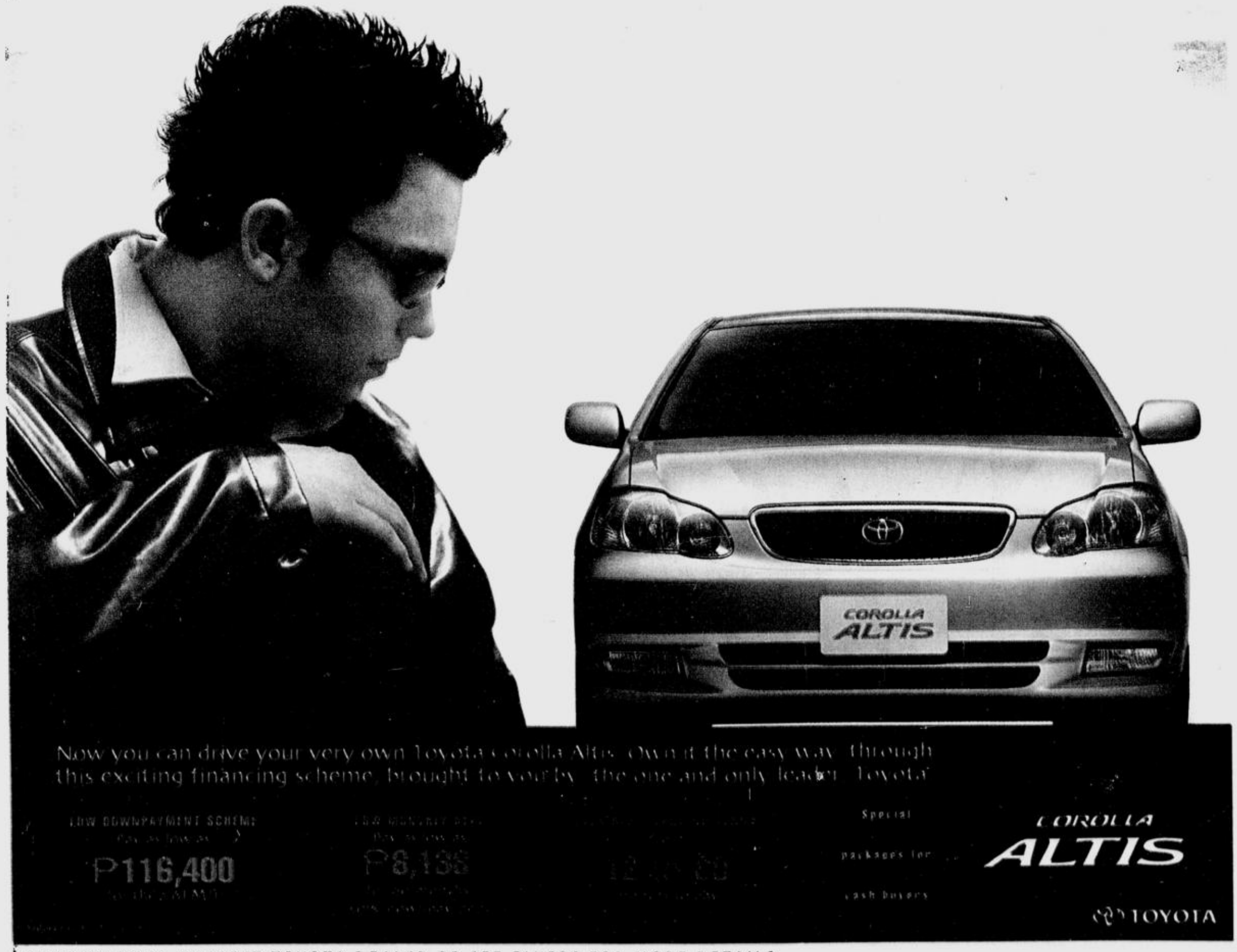

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MONDAY
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESSMonday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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Got big bucks? Spend it on a foreign school

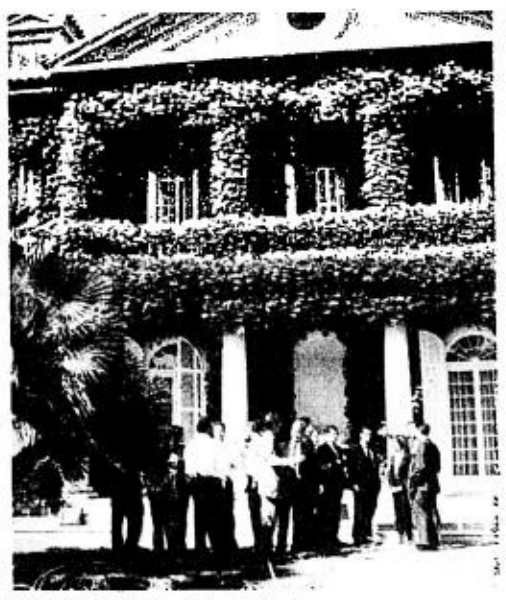
By Tina Arceo-Dumlao, Raul Dancel and Anne Luisa Villarico

THERE is perhaps no better way to learn the value of having a global way of thinking than to actually live, breathe and discuss ideas with people from different countries or to learn from foreign teachers.

In this way, students do not only learn the theories but they learn the nuances and the cultures of different countries, from the best teachers—the citizens themselves.

This is one of the reasons why major academic institutions around the world have been on a campaign to attract more foreign students into their campuses.

They want to provide a "globalized" environment, a good ratio between foreign and local students. They believe that this is one way of enhancing education outside the campus walls.



THAMES School in Britain

Foreign schools have been setting up what can be described as extension campuses in the Philippines, while others have been on a marketing campaign to entice Filipino students to get their master's degrees abroad.

Business Monday features a few of these schools.

Thames International Business School

Joel Santos, director of the Thames International Business School, says the influx of foreign schools is due to the internationalization of education. Getting degrees from abroad, he says, is the fastest and cheapest way of transferring technology.

"Many countries in Asia, like China, saw the value of getting foreign education early on. It has been sending about 200,000 students a year abroad for their studies. The Philippines lags behind this trend," Santos says.

Students who first went abroad did so to get postgraduate degrees, but many other countries are already starting earlier, some in high school and others at the graduate level. Thames is one of these schools.

Thames, founded in Singapore in 1987, was established in the Philippines in 1999 and was the first to provide foreign degrees at the graduate level. Under its system, the students spend their first years of college in the Philippines and then complete their programs in the affiliate schools in the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Australia or a British satellite college in Singapore.

Santos says the system is better because students only have to stay abroad in the last two years of their college life. The first two years are spent here, but he stresses that the students would end up with diplomas issued by the foreign schools.

"Unlike other so-called foreign schools here, we do not issue certificates, but actual diplomas from the affiliate universities," he says.

Courses offered for now are business administration, major in marketing, business and information technology and mass communication.

Santos says it is no longer enough these days to have just a local education, if the graduates plan to eventually be part of the corporate world that deals with a global economy.

"Executives need a global perspective and the school can provide this," Santos says.

Cost of the first two years of education in Thames in Manila is about the same as that of the exclusive universities but the cost shoots up when one goes abroad to finish the degree.

University of Chicago

The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, a world-class business school known for its reputation and rigorous training, offers an Executive Masters in Business Administration (MBA) program.

Only on its third year, the Executive MBA program is designed for students who are employed and intend to pursue the MBA degree while they continue their careers. It is a part-time structure that allows participants to earn exactly the same degree as full-time MBA students through intensive learning sessions.

"When we decided to establish this program, our goal in doing that is we wanted to have our presence 'globally,' and we want our faculty to learn from exposure to students and professionals, and exposure to business and economy in a different perspective that you get when you interact with people around the globe," says Beth Bader, managing director of Executive MBA Program Asia, University of Chicago GSB.

Bader recently visited Manila to recruit interested Filipino participants of the program for the Singapore campus at the start of its classes in July.

If a student cannot attend the scheduled sessions because they have an important work commitment on the session dates, Bader says they can make up for the sessions that they miss by either taking the modules on one of the other campuses or taking it with the following class.

She says that an MBA could be finished within 20 months if a participant could complete all the 15 one-week sessions. A participant is given up to five years to complete the program, says Bader.

The cost of an executive program in Asia is $68,000.

Unlike the programs in other business school, the MBA program is being taught by the same faculty

GOT/ C4

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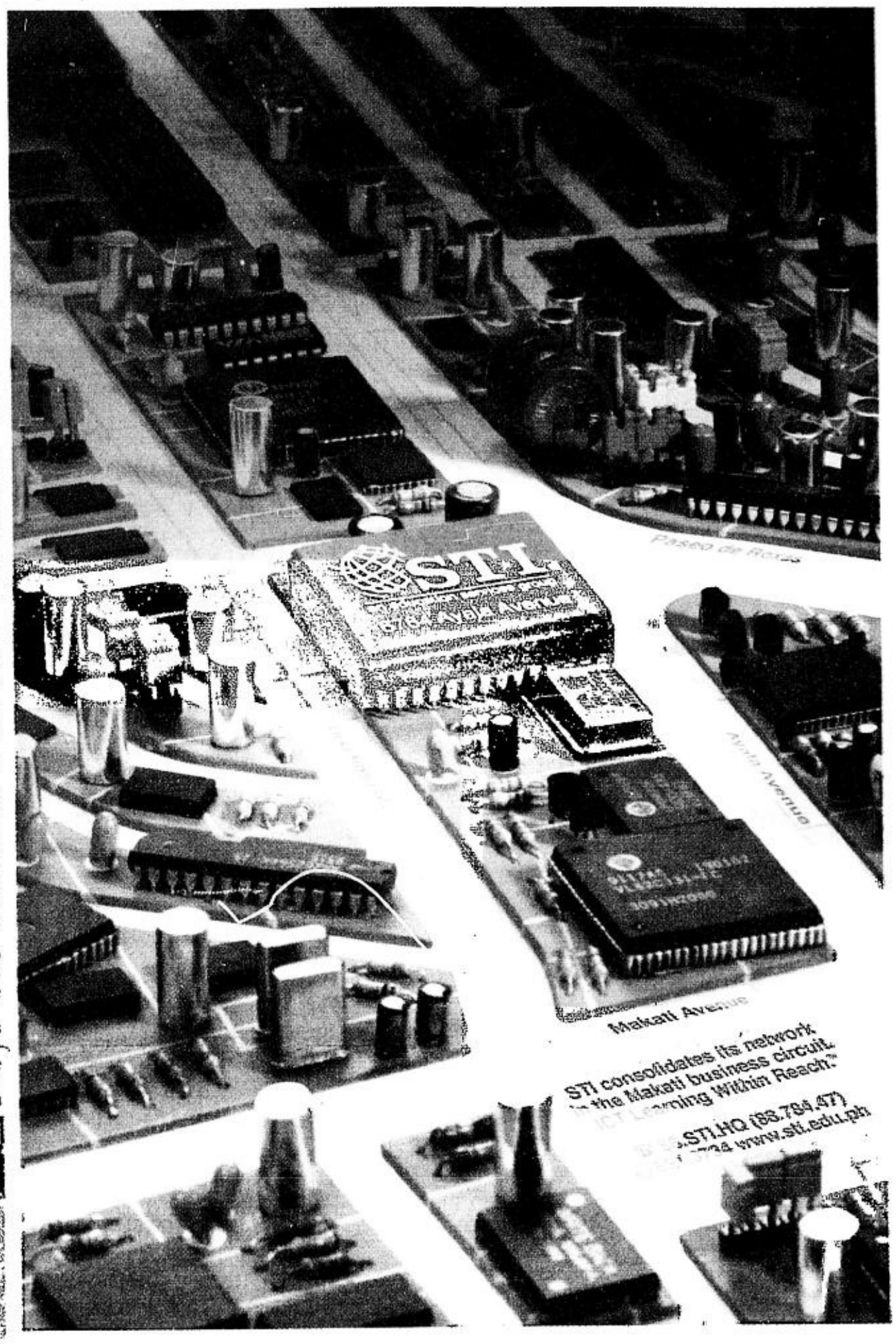


Where there is a will . . . there is a way!

RICE SMUGGLING has caused irreversible damage to the nation and benefits only a few. If left unchecked, millions of rice and corn farmers will suffer irreversible damage. The nation will also see an exacerbation of an already anemic and dwindling farm-based community. Rice smuggling has also affected our rural economy and has contributed to weakening of our national economy.

I am alarmed by these developments. And I believe this problem warrants immediate legislative attention. Recent years have witnessed an unprecedented rise in rice smuggling incidences and volumes. There is an urgent need to pass legislation to aggressively address rice smuggling and to insure that the handling rules on smuggled rice shipments after its seizure are clearly defined, so as to plug the loopholes that ferment this opportunity.

Throughout the Spanish regime, American occupation, Japanese regime, the Commonwealth period, and independent Philippines governments, we have never witnessed nor tolerated the level of rice smuggling as we have seen in recent years. And when confronted, recent government's cavalier attitude on this topic leads one to suspect that these rice importations are syndicated at the highest ranks of government. The devastating economic and political consequences of such an act have always been sufficient deterrent for any government administration against tolerating any large scale rice smuggling. However, this has not been the case in recent administrations.

It goes without saying that large scale smuggling of rice cannot happen without the active participation of government personalities who are mandated by law to keep watch and prevent its occurrence. Rice is a low value and an extremely bulky commodity. Efficient and economical importation would require shipload-size importations.

Recent rice import numbers indicate that the arrivals could not have been done undetected. It would have to have been imported in several shiploads and in the course of unloading this cargo, it would have been obnoxiously visible to all the authorities that have obviously played dumb for their own reasons.

Worse, only as a consequence of increasing public pressure, is rice smuggling addressed and apprehensions affected. And when this occurs, the confounded post-seizure occurrences of smuggled imported rice have remained to be a sorry state of confusion at best, and an obvious effort of the official involved to escape accountability at its worse.

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Romeo G. David

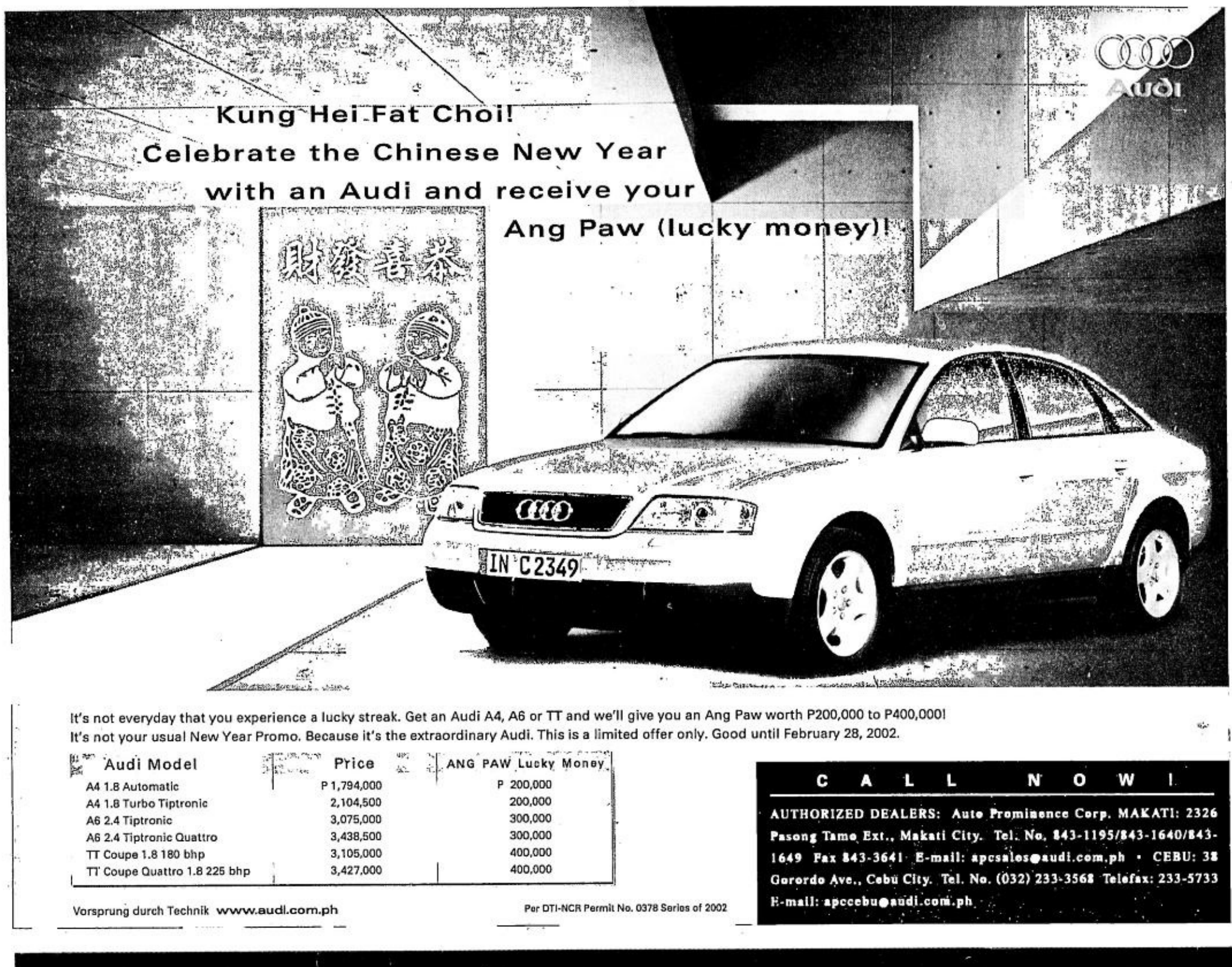
Post-seizure handling of rice by the Bureau of Customs has often been a total economic waste. It has resulted to unnecessary deterioration and economic loss of the confiscated rice stocks. This is often the consequence of inter-agency turf battles and ambiguous rules and regulations that ferment its occurrence, and self-preservation of those accountable.

It is common knowledge that any unprogrammed rice importation is economically devastating to the domestic farmers and rural economy. This is why all governments have always strived to manage this matter with utmost care. Untimely rice importation would dampen rice/*palay* prices, significantly damage the rural economy and cause political instability (this has consistently been the experience).

It is for these reasons that I urge immediate operational review of all government agencies that are mandated to insure that rice is not smuggled into the country. And when rice smuggling does occur, the penalties for it must be clear so that the implementation of law can be swift. It is further recommended that the documentary requirements, handling/processing protocols and agency/personnel accountabilities for the importation of rice must be spelled out to insure that it is "very clear" and cannot be conveniently misinterpreted. This is to insure easy determination of the shipment status and identification of direct and indirect personnel accountabilities in the handling of imported grain shipments. Presently, the responsible authorities seem to purposely confound the situation to escape accountability.

Further, whenever seizure of illegally imported rice happens, it should be government legislated policy that the seized rice must be automatically turned over to the National Food Authority for management and safekeeping, and the state automatically takes up the confiscated rice stock as "Government Owned Inventory" augmenting our National Disaster Food Relief inventory. The utilization of which is under the direct supervision and approval of the President of the Philippines. Smuggled rice should "never be disposed through bidding" by the Bureau of Customs or any other agency of government to safeguard farmgate prices of *palay* and the rural economy. This policy would also dampen the possibility for connivance and graft between and among the enforcers of the law.

This simple redefinition, through legislation, will put an end to the practice of large scale Smuggling of Rice. This could be achieved by way of clearer documentation requirements for rice importation, clear-cut definitions, roles, report accomplishment and processing time for those mandated with accountabilities. Doing so would protect our economy and grain farmers. Better post-apprehension handling rules would insure the productive and economically sound utilization of the confiscated rice stock with the least disturbance to our economy. *(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of Management Association of the Philippines, chair and president of BNL Management Corp. and former administrator of the National Food Authority. E-mail at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)*



New MAP president

RAMON Y. Dimacali, chair of IBM Philippines Inc., is the president of the Management Association of the Philippines for 2002.

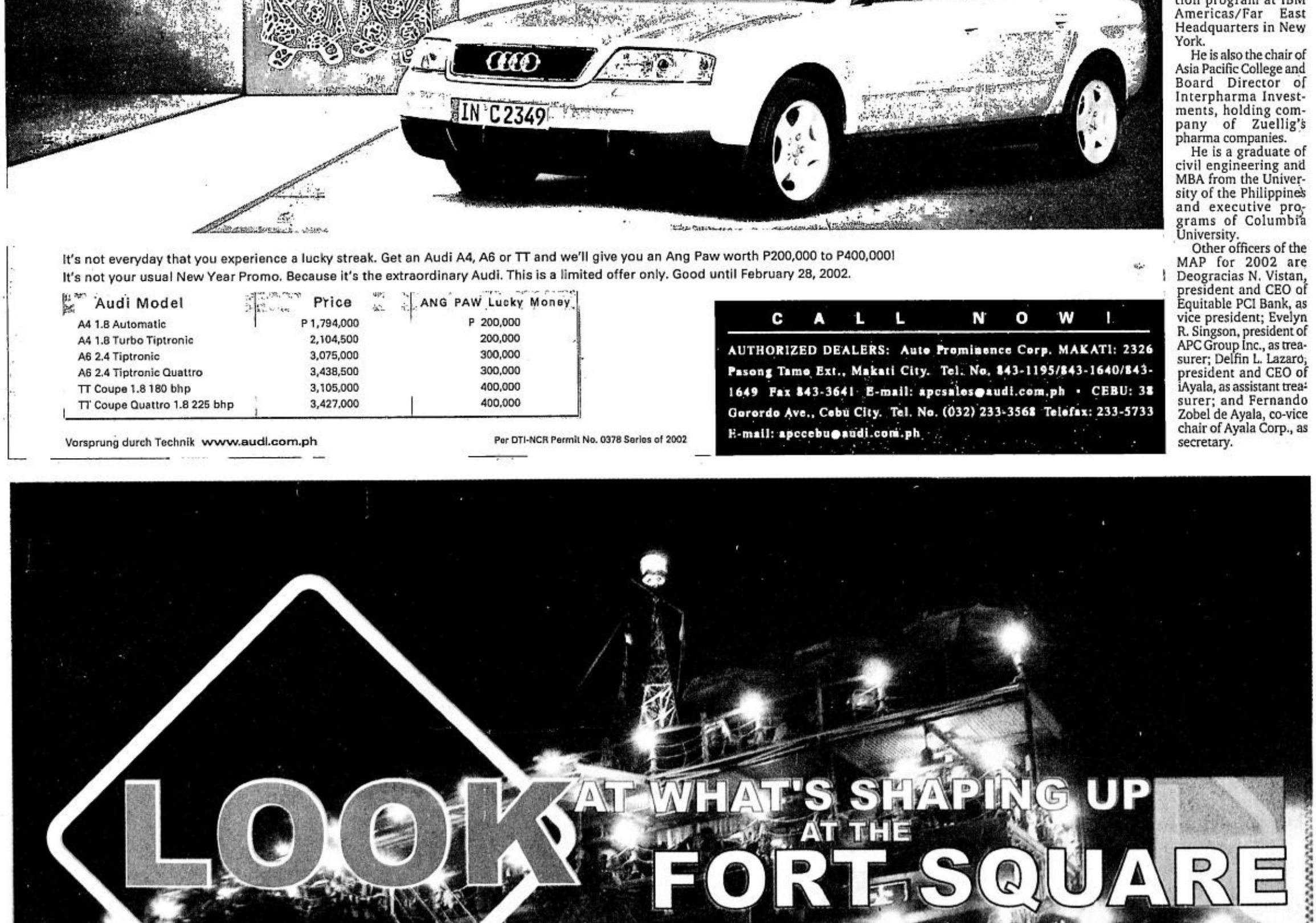
Dimacali has been with IBM for over 30 years. He previously served as president and general manager of IBM Philippines, director of operations of IBM Singapore, program manager at IBM's Finance Marketing Headquarters in New Jersey and general manager of the regional IBM Education Co. for Asean/South Asia.

He was also a participant in the company's management acceleration program at IBM Americas/Far East Headquarters in New York.

He is also the chair of Asia Pacific College and Board Director of Interpharma Investments, holding company of Zuellig's pharma companies.

He is a graduate of civil engineering and MBA from the University of the Philippines and executive programs of Columbia University.

Other officers of the MAP for 2002 are Deogracias N. Vistan, president and CEO of Equitable PCI Bank, as vice president; Evelyn R. Singson, president of APC Group Inc., as treasurer; Delfin L. Lazaro, president and CEO of iAyala, as assistant treasurer; and Fernando Zobel de Ayala, co-vice chair of Ayala Corp., as secretary.



Create a workplace where people can speak

By Michelle V. Remo

LIM SOON HOCK

AFRAID to volunteer ideas for a company's undertaking, thinking they may not be good enough? Well, if some bosses lose their confidence in an erring employee, here is one who doesn't mind when his people commit mistakes.

Lim Soon Hock, president for the Asia Pacific of air transportation service provider Sita, believes that it is from small mistakes that great ideas come.

Sita provides communication networks, software solutions and information-gathering programs needed by the aviation business in its operations.

Lim believes that a business organization, especially one that is engaged in technology like Sita, should "create an environment where people won't be hesitant to speak, because no single person has all the solutions" for the ever growing need for technology.

That is why every time Lim and his colleagues meet to discuss company matters, he says that he encourages each member to speak his or her mind. He doesn't like "yes" staffers who just bow to whatever decision their superior suggests.

For Lim helping one's subordinates "be successful is expected of a president or a CEO," and says it is his No. 1 priority.

With this in mind, he says he always gives credit to his colleagues. "If somebody is working on a project and I notice that he or she is on the wrong track, I offer my help. If the project becomes a success, he or she gets the credit and not I."

The concept of having close ties with people that matter in his life—his colleagues in the office when speaking of work, for example—is probably the same one that he uses at home when he is with his family.

This company president, who travels a lot to oversee the operations of Sita in the Asia-Pacific region, says that when he is at home in Singapore, he wakes up early to eat breakfast with his kids and wife.

Taking advantage of the time he could spend with his family, Lim says he makes the most out of breakfast. He also personally sends his three children to school every Tuesday and Thursday. "For me, those are ways for me to bond with my family."

Living a holistic life, Lim does aerobics or jogs twice a week in the mornings. The rest of the weekdays he brings his children to school.

"It (exercise) is important to take away stress. It uplifts my spirit to be ready for the whole day's work," says Lim.

Not taking his health for granted despite his busy schedule is probably the reason he was tapped by the Singapore government to chair the National Committee For A Healthy Lifestyle.

After his exercise or his drive to his kids' school, he then focuses on work, starting early as the morning news.

"I read the day's paper while I concurrently watch CNN" for updates. By 8 a.m., while inside the car on my way to the office, I think through and review my schedule for the day—what it is I need to negotiate for, whom I should be talking. I also make use of that time to start making phone calls."

As soon as he arrives in the office, his routine starts. This includes checking of e-mail for updates from different regional heads of Sita, and of meeting with his co-workers. He says that he calls for weekly, monthly and annual reviews/ meetings "so we don't lose the strategic side of the business."

MANAGEMENT STYLES

Lim has been with Sita for two-and-a-half years. He used to be CEO for Compaq Asia, one of the world's leading personal computer maker.

Citing his expertise in organizational management, Lim also works as chair of the governing council of the Singapore Institute of Management, which is an academic institution.

Asked what is the most challenging part of being president, Lim says: "It is to make sure that people believe that you are fair and that your actions are for the interest of the company. We should not be working for personal interest."

One's sincere commitment to work for the company's and not for personal progress would manifest in his or her actions, according to Lim.

One should be a team player who works for the whole team's recognition.

Lim says commitment to work, people empowerment and shunning of politicking are what he considers as his work ethics.

Succeed in work via image

A FIRM is looking for an account executive. Applicant A walks in, looking confident, well-groomed, wearing the right attire she's wearing for the job interview. Applicant B is fidgety, wearing an ill-fitting dress with hair all over the place.

Who do you think gets the job?

Between the two, the first applicant has the makings of a successful candidate. She, with the pleasing personality and image, succeeds in convincing the interviewer that she is the right person for the job.

Image can make or break a person. From wearing clothes, the way a person speaks and interacts with other people, the manner through which he/she projects him/herself to the outside world—all these play a crucial role in a person's image.

How important is image to selling oneself?

"Through presentation of a positive image, one is able to project confidence thus making it easy to influence favorable reaction or decision from the other person," says Cora Doloroso, president of Cora Doloroso Career Center (CDCC) and one of the speakers of the 4th Students' Marketing Conference organized by the Association of Marketing Educators (AME) on March 2 at the Jade Valley Restaurant in Quezon City.

SUCCEED/ C4

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Succeed in work via image

From page C3

Her topic "Marketing Yourself: Image Dimension" will emphasize the need for everyone to be aware of the significance of marketing oneself in many aspects other than technical skills, from visual presentation to how one thinks and communicates.

Doloroso, armed with a diploma from the Elly Lukas School of Elegance in Melbourne, Australia, established CDCC in 1968. The school offers development courses in office management, travel and tourism, fashion design, computer secretarial and a two-month course in personality development.

As a criteria of measuring success, Doloroso compares image with work experience and qualifications. One may not have the qualifications but can still be received well by others. This is where an engaging character and good grooming come into play which every applicant should project before presenting him/herself for a job interview.

"It's actually 40 percent image, 30 percent experience and 30 percent qualifications," she said.

Building a successful professional image is not difficult according to Doloroso. More than the visual poise, good grooming and the appropriate choice of wardrobe and accessories, it is a person's positive attitude that could spell the difference. Having a positive disposition both in life and in work definitely reflects in the way a person interacts with people, behaves in business and social situations (both formal and informal) and goes through life in general. She also noted that it would help if one could also develop his/her communication skills both oral and written.

"Priorities in establishing a certain image will depend on the kind of impression you would like to project. If you wish to present a hardworking and industrious look, do not fix yourself as if you're going to a party," she remarks.

The CDCC president also cites the importance of setting goals and having the self-discipline and determination to achieve them.

"You have to make goals for yourself and continuously improve yourself by engaging in activities that would help boost your image," she notes.

Her advice to a working woman who wants to be taken seriously: "Be a woman. Act and look as a woman of substance and you will be appreciated."

For future college graduates, Doloroso said that they should be careful to present or highlight their best attributes, achievements, and downplay their negatives. She shares some pointers on how they can sell themselves to prospective employers:

(1) Be proactive. Make things happen instead of waiting for things to happen.

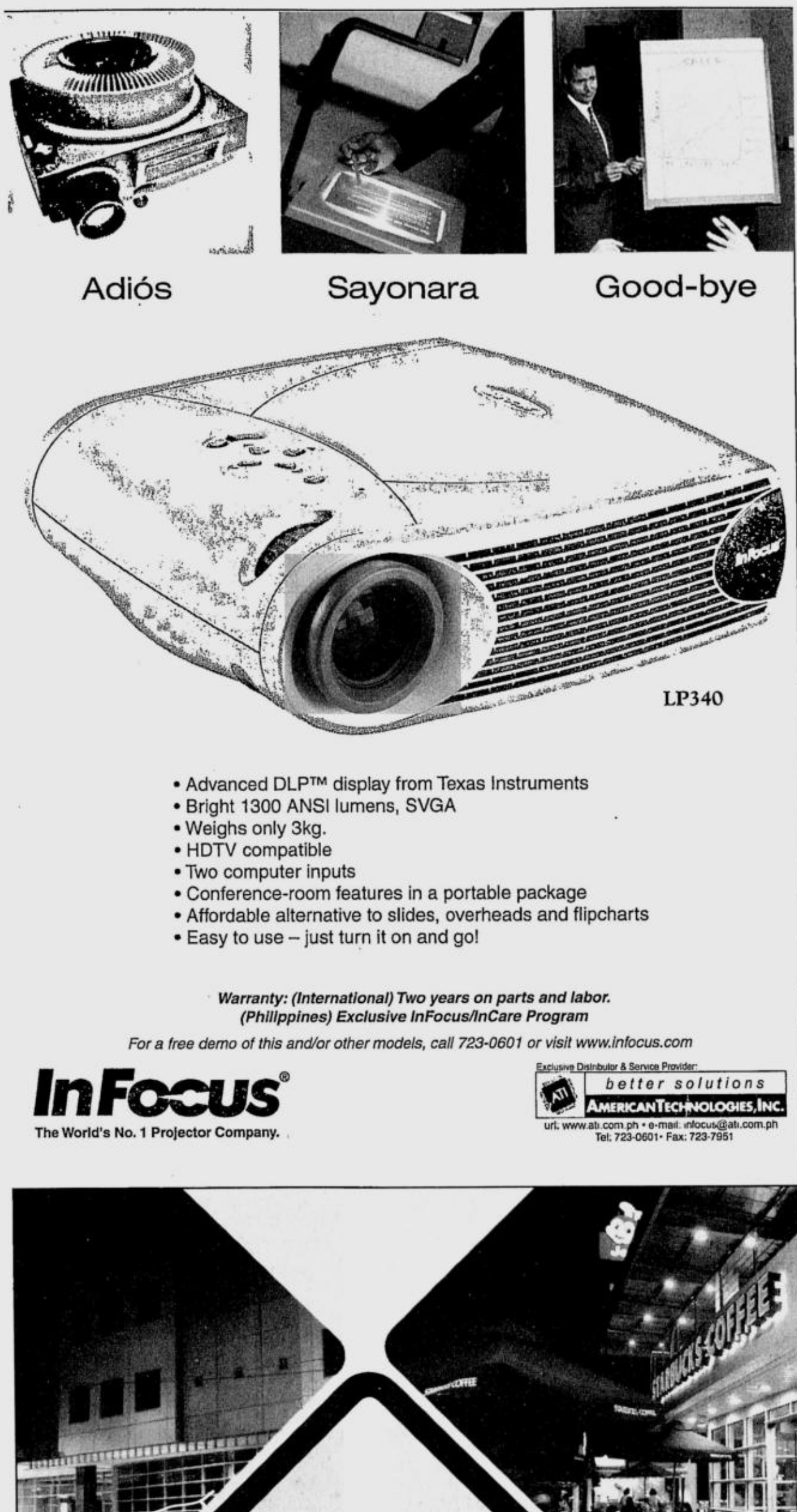
(2) Be confident.

(3) Be persistent. As the cliché goes, try and try until you succeed.

(4) Have a positive attitude.

(5) Be daring. Have the courage to go where others did not dare to step on.

(For inquiries about AME's 4th Students' Marketing Conference, call 8936459 or 8937127.)



Got big bucks . . .

From page C1

teaching in Chicago GSB. They fly from one continent to another to teach.

Admission to the Executive MBA Program is highly competitive and enrollment is limited. "We are getting 85 students for each campus per year and we will not expand," says Bader. She stressed that they are after the quality of students who will be studying under the program.

"This is a commitment, an investment. You are happily investing in yourself, on the sense that you will be working really for your career," she says.

Bader also says that there are as many as 24 nationalities in one class. Students in the Singapore campus come from diverse backgrounds as Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, China, India, Pakistan, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Australia and as far as South Africa.

STUDENTS at the Thames School in Manila

IESE

For Filipino students who are looking at expanding their horizons in both business and culture, the IESE Business School, the graduate school of management of the University of Navarra in Spain is a viable alternative.

The school offers the MBA, Global Executive MBA, Executive MBA and PhD in management degrees, as well as a wide range of executive education programs for global senior executives.

Founded in 1958, IESE established Europe's first two-year MBA program, with the support of Harvard Business School. It began offering the bilingual MBA program in 1980. Its campuses located in Barcelona and Madrid provide students the perfect setting to learn European and Spanish cultures as well as management techniques.

With students from 55 countries and faculty from 13 countries, the MBA program is highly international in character and content. Special emphasis is placed on e-business, entrepreneurship and communication skills to prepare students for success in the new economy.

IESE has been ranked as one of the top 10 business schools in Europe primarily due to its tie-ups with other business schools in Latin America, the Philippines, South Africa and China.

IESE's Carina Gemperle said in an interview that an MBA in Europe provides extra benefits because it would give students a window to Europe, which American schools do not always emphasize.

IESE has also fostered links with other continents, thus, it looks beyond Europe in its vision.

Proof of this is the Global Executive MBA, that delves into globalization and e-business issues. Students who will take the seven 12-day modules spread over 15 months will take five of the modules in Barcelona and one module each in Shanghai and in Silicon Valley.

Thus, the program offers participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in the dynamic and different business cultures of Asia, Europe and the United States.

Southville International School

Southville International School, meanwhile, offers undergraduates the opportunity to study and work abroad after finishing their first year in college.

Southville, located at the BF Homes International in Las Piñas, has a three-year program in hotel and restaurant management that students will have to complete in the United Kingdom.

Under this program, students study for three semesters in the Philippines. In their second year, they are sent to the International Hotel Management and English School in the Isle of Man, British Isles in the United Kingdom, where they will serve as interns for nine months at the IHMES International Hotel School.

Students seeking to pursue a bachelors degree in hospitality management may transfer on their third year to any of IHMES' associate universities, namely the South Carolina-Beaufort University, Caledonian University, Birmingham University, and the Glamorgan University of Oxford Brookes University, where they can get a degree in 27 weeks.

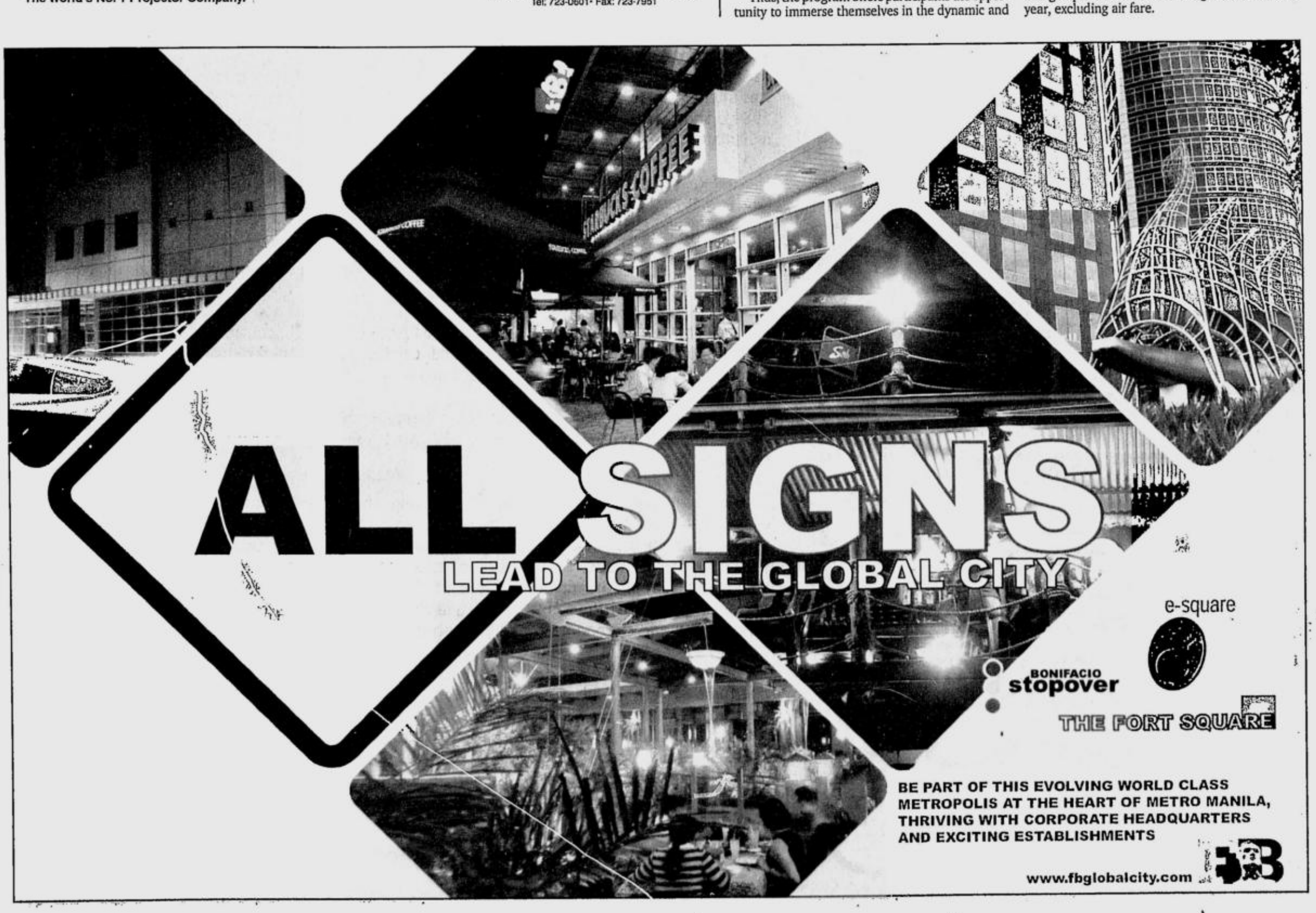
Southville, formed in 1998, seeks to provide the country's youth the opportunity to get the kind of education that only students in developed countries have access to, according to Southville's administration and marketing manager, Joyce Cudale.

"It is not meant to undermine the standards of local universities because these top institutions in the country today have already carved a niche in education and have, thus, acquired the respect they deserve even abroad," Cudale clarifies.

"Foreign colleges serve as an option, especially to those who would like to pursue a career in the foreign arena since these foreign schools take them to their first few steps to achieving an international dream," she explains.

Apart from hotel and restaurant management, Southville also has courses developed by the London City College in international business, international marketing, and advertising and PR management. Students taking these courses will graduate through Southville in two years.

A degree from Southville, however, won't come cheap by the country's standards. The school charges about P100,000 during the first year of its hotel and restaurant management program. It gets higher as they begin studying abroad, as tuition and living expenses can reach as high as P500,000 a year, excluding air fare.



MESSAGES

Warmest felicitations to the Seaoil Petroleum Corporation on its 20th Anniversary.

I congratulate Seaoil for its meritorious accomplishments and unwavering commitment to provide quality petroleum products and services.
Your initiatives to develop and promote environmentally safe products are laudable. I encourage you to promote the development of our petroleum industry through technology, investments, and innovative products and services. I urge you to seize the opportunities in the Philippine economy and to support our aim to win the opportunities for growth and sustainable development.

The Philippine economy offers solid opportunities for the petroleum industry. We aim for self-sufficiency in oil through oil exploration and development. We likewise pursue our goal of greater national development by continuing to foster an environment conducive to investments. As we proceed in this growth path in today's competitive global environment, we intend to make our business climate more attractive to potential investors. Our imperatives include an environment of transparency, level playing field and renewed investor confidence.

I wish the success of Seaoil as the nation moves forward to a bright and prosperous future. My administration joins hands with the private sector in establishing the physical foundation for sustainable development and ensuring the aspirations of the Filipino people for greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace, Manila

The Department of Energy wishes to extend its warmest greetings to the officers and members of **Seaoil Petroleum Corporation** as you hold your 20th year of operations in the Philippines.

Your partnership with the government in providing adequate and continuous supply of environmentally clean and high-quality petroleum products has gone a long way from the time Seaoil started to engage in the formulation of special blends of bunker fuel and lubricating oils during the late 70's.

Your years of service have likewise contributed to the overall economic development of the country, and have provided and generated thousands of jobs for the Filipino people. We are glad that you continue to share that vision.

I therefore congratulate you for your continuous drive towards product improvement and development to maintain your growth and success in becoming a highly competitive company under a deregulated market environment.

With optimism and renewed hope on the challenges ahead of us, the Macapagal-Arroyo administration looks forward to having you as we collectively work towards the attainment of national growth.

More power to you all!

VINCENT S. PEREZ, JR.
Secretary
Department of Energy

Throughout our 20-year history, SEAOIL has consistently adhered to superior standards both in our products and our services. Quality defines the name of our organization. We engage in business without compromising the quality and abandoning the obligation attached to our name. The essence of our existence, after all, has always been to make available to the Filipino of our time only the best products and services in the oil industry.

Twenty years hence, SEAOIL stands as a burgeoning tradition that embodies the integral strength of our relationships---with our business partners, our dealers, our human resources, and most importantly our customers. From the suppliers that incessantly endow us with harvests from the latest innovations in oil science to the ordinary purchaser whose requirements we unfailingly care about---the Filipino's advancement is always at the heart of SEAOIL.

On this day, as we mark our 20th Anniversary, we fuel ourselves anew to the pursuit of a goal that has delivered two decades of company chronicles. We renew and strengthen our vow to be a channel of our nation's growth and to be a vehicle in reaching every Filipino's dream.

This is what SEAOIL stands for. This is SEAOIL's commitment.

MR. FRANCIS C. YU
Chairman
Seaoil Petroleum Corporation

SEAOIL

A Filipino Leader Emerges

The late 1970s witnessed what probably was the worst oil crisis in history. The outbreak of unusual worry and fear, which the Philippines was not spared from, found relief in oil companies pursuing alternative sources of fuel. That was when SEAOIL started to make its presence felt. By being the first to introduce alternative non-traditional sources of fuel, SEAOIL emerged into becoming the pioneer and Filipino leader in the history of the nation's oil industry.

As in the latter, SEAOIL again had to respond to a need: to serve its industry requirements. The world, recovering from the late 70s crisis, was silent as SEAOIL opened its first distribution facility in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila in 1980s. Shortly after, various storage requirements of other fuel companies, both local and multinational, pushed SEAOIL to erect additional tanks.

The deregulation of the oil industry allowed SEAOIL to offer its products and services, in line with the existing players in the industry. It gave SEAOIL a new calling: to serve the growing demands of the consumers. The SEAOIL service station in Tutuban became the first to carry out the slogan "*KABALIKAT MO SA HANAPBUHAY*" along with the other stations that followed. SEAOIL is here to help each Filipino achieve his goals: an improved life, a life marked with progress and development.

As one of the emerging and dynamic companies, SEAOIL continues to embrace new business opportunities in the sector and carries on its operations fully aware of the impact of industrial wastes on our environment.

With environmental concerns becoming a burgeoning issue in the new economics of the 90s until the turn of the new century, SEAOIL renews its commitment to protect the environment.

SEAOIL recognizes the magnitude of adopting the latest technologies and techniques available into its operations as it braces towards the direction of helping achieve a more efficient and cleaner industry. SEAOIL likewise dedicates itself to constantly innovate its products, services and technical expertise. As a concrete step, months before the implementation of the Clean Air Act of 1999 in October 2000, SEAOIL had already introduced the *Generation Five* or G-5 additive in its products to provide consumers with self-cleaning and car engine-friendly gasoline and diesel.

The mission to provide total consumer satisfaction via the best possible products of our time fuels SEAOIL all the more to widen its influence in the oil industry. Year 2000 caught a record-breaking network expansion rate that has resulted to a whopping 60 SEAOIL stations nationwide; 20 of which are in Metro Manila and 40 in different regions. The Company, which traces its roots in franchising, has formally opened its doors and welcomes franchising interests for either Metro Manila or provincial dealers. SEAOIL continues to recognize franchising as vital to economic growth and to the fulfillment of its role as a leading participant in the country's march to progress and prosperity.

Saan man ang nais mong marating.

Hatid ka

Sa loob ng 20 taon sa industriya ng enerhiya sa bansa, patuloy na ginagampanan namin sa SEAOIL ang aming tungkulin bilang isang responsableng kumpanya para sa mamamayan, sa kapaligiran at sa ating bayan. Itinataya namin ang aming sarili sa pagtitiyak na kasiyahan ang hatid namin sa bawat kustomer; gayundin, sa pagtupad sa isinasaad ng CLEAN AIR ACT.

Bukod dito, layunin din naming maihatid sa bawat mamamayang Pilipino sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas ang produktong SEAOIL--- makabago, maka-kalikasan at produktong world class sa presyong lokal. Maisasakatuparan lamang namin ito sa pagkakaroon ng isang ganap na network ng mga SEAOIL SERVICE STATIONS na handa para sa buong bansa. Batid naming malaki ang maiaambag nito sa pagsulong ng ating bayan tungo sa minimithing kaunlaran.

Tunay na lumalawak ang naaabot ng produktong SEAOIL, sa tulong ng sariling mga outlets, franchisees, at ang mga tumatangkilik sa tatak Pilipino tulad ng tatak SEAOIL.

TATAK SEAOIL--- tatak na nagpapatunay na kaya ng Pinoy makipagsabayan sa kabila ng liberalisasyon at globalisasyon ng industriya.

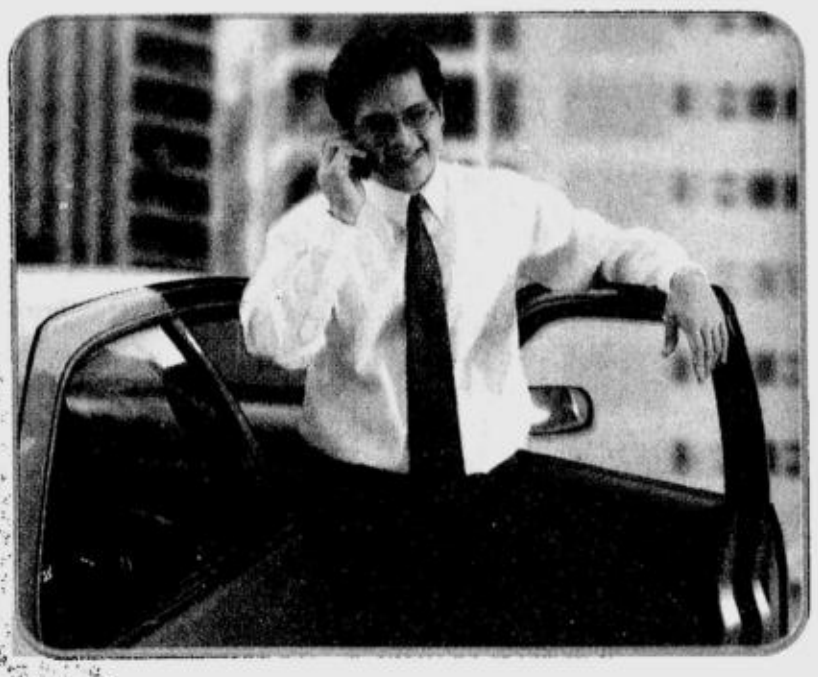
TATAK SEAOIL. TATAK PINOY. TATAK WORLD-CLASS.

Hatid ni Normandale sa
Merville, Parañaque

METRO MANILA SEAOIL STATIONS:
Lealtad cor. Gov. Forbes • Mayhaligue Ext., Tutuban Center • Old Panaderos cor. New Panaderos, Santa Ana • Amoranto (Retiro) cor. Labo, QC • Cupang, Muntinlupa • Ortigas Ave. Ext. cor. Mario Drive, Cainta • Mindanao Ave., Bgy. Bahay Toro • EDSA cor. P. Tuazón, Pasig

PROVINCIAL SEAOIL STATIONS:
Baler, Aurora • Filville, Bulacan • Malhacan, Bulacan • Malolos, Bulacan • Marilao, Bulacan • Meycauayan, Bulacan • Mojon, Bulacan • Pulilan, Bulacan • Taliptip, Bulacan • Muzon, Batangas • Indang, Cavite • Rizal, Kalinga • San Antonio, Nueva Ecija • Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ec

namin.



Meeting ni Bernard Santos, Account Executive,
sa Ortigas Avenue

Montessori,
91

Kasal nina Lani Cacho at Nestor Pamintuan
sa Santo Domingo Church, Quezon Boulevard

Date nina Amy Javier at Jay Agustin
sa may E. Rodriguez

Binyag ni Gabriel de Veyra
sa Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, Mindanao Avenue

Pamamalengke nina Lola Viring at Celia
sa Malolos Public Market, Malolos, Bulacan

SEAOIL

Kabalikat Mo Sa Hanapbuhay.

Bindi, Barrio Bagong Ilog, Pasig • E. Rodriguez, Bgy. Dona Josefa, QC • Quirino Highway, Bgy. Gulod, Novaliches • Quirino Hi-way cor. Salvia, St. Dominic Subd. • West Service Rd., Merville, Pque. • McArthur Hi-way, Potrero, Malabon • Palatiw, Pasig • Tandang Sora, QC

Brookes Point, Palawan • Dasol, Pangasinan • San, Carlos, Pangasinan • San Antonio, Quezon • Odiongan, Romblon • Sta. Cruz, Zambales

SEAOIL fuels and lubricants: Quality na global sa presyong local

True to its name of being Filipino's first, **SEAOIL** launched to a broad-based market its highly developed fuel and lubricant products that carry the quality of the future.

G5 X-TREME with VSR Pro

More speed for less

Long before the Clean Air Act made leaded gasoline a thing of the past, SEAOIL had already conceived a more advanced and environment-friendly fuel product. Adopting the Generation Five formula, SEAOIL, with the help of its Fuel Additives suppliers, designed the breakthrough gasoline G5 X-treme with VSR Pro.

With its breakthrough additives, G5 X-treme with VSR Pro provides better protection from valve seat recession. Its advanced Generation Five additive cleans up and keeps clean car engines for a more efficient combustion and significant reduction in car emissions.

G5 X-treme with VSR Pro's friction modifier eliminates excessive engine friction and converts friction loss to power and acceleration giving motorists instantaneous fuel economy.

G5 X-treme with VSR Pro reversed the philosophy of high-octane fuels: rather achieve speed by revving up a fuel's octane power level, speed is achieved by lessening considerably the demand for fuel burn simply through clean burning. This significantly reduces octane appetite or octane requirement increase (ORI) of vehicles and relates to lower fuel consumption and decreased hydrocarbon emission.

With the emphasis on reducing friction and ensuring engines' protection through its revolutionary additives, G5 X-treme with VSR Pro definitely gives consumers the best fuel economy function ever. Ultimately, it guarantees your engines' optimum performance. This is SEAOIL's way of providing motorists more speed at less cost!

UNLEADED.

This consumers' choice at *presyong pang-hanapbuhay* reduces emissions, guarantees speed and the needed boost in your car for fuel economy.

DIESEL.

Blended with advanced additives, SEAOIL Diesel gives superior detergency performance on direct and indirect engines. SEAOIL Diesel's formula with lubricity protects the vital components of the fuel delivery system, prevents formation of water in fuel and provides protection from corrosion. Its built-in combustion chamber clean-up feature lessens considerably your engine's NO_X emission, black smoke as well as particulate matters in your car.

SEAOIL Diesel notably improves your car's drivability and fuel economy.

INDUSTRIAL FUEL PRODUCTS.

SEAOIL continues to cater to the fuel needs of the industrial sector through its Bunker Fuel Oil (BFO), Automotive Diesel Oil (ADO) and Kerosene. SEAOIL Bunker Fuel Oil, as a low-cost residual fuel, has low sulfur content and high heating value. Conversely, SEAOIL's low sulfur Automotive Diesel Oil is intended to satisfy the requirements of internal combustion diesel engines in marine and stationary power plants as well as furnaces and boilers. Lastly, SEAOIL's refined petroleum distillate Kerosene is suitable as a clean and economical burning fuel for industries and as an illuminant.

PROLUBE .

PROLUBE is SEAOIL's answer to the requirements of a growing lubricants market. Manufactured with state-of-the-art additives and through sophisticated equipment and the latest processes, PROLUBE products pass the standards set by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and the American Petroleum Institute (API).

SEAOIL's lubricant product line includes PROLUBE Multigrade Gasoline Engine Oils, PROLUBE Monograde and Multigrade Diesel Engine Oils, PROLUBE Automotive Gear Oils, PROLUBE Industrial Oils, Hydraulic Oils, and Gear and Machine or Expeller Oils.

SEAOIL's capacity to source for a vast range of high-quality additives and introduce innovative quality products at lower costs while being true to its social obligation shows its potency in gaining the recognition and respect of a "globalized" market.

Innovative Services

Palamig
SEAOIL FOOD STORE

THE PALAMIG CONVENIENCE STORE

A significant part of the SEAOIL message is the PALAMIG---the mini-grocery and snack bar of SEAOIL filling station. The name itself echoes the company's nationalistic bent.

THE NEW EDSA- QUEZON AVENUE SEAOIL.

Another SEAOIL station opens along EDSA south-bound, past the corner of Mother Ignacia Avenue. Yet again expanding the SEAOIL Metro Manila network to 20 stations.

Samahang Seaoil. Maging kabalikat.

Inaanyayahan ka ng SEAOIL-tuparin ang iyong mga pangarap! Maging bahagi ng lumalaking pamilya ng mga SEAOIL dealers at lumalawak na distribution network nito.

Ang lahat ng dealers ng SEAOIL ay kaisa sa pagsalubong sa iyo na naghahangad ring sumama sa aming "Seaoil dream and mission." Layunin naming maibahagi ang mithiing makapagbigay sa Pilipinong motorista ng produktong petrolyo ayon sa pinakamataas na pamantayan. Tanging high standard na SEAOIL fuel products lamang, wala nang kung ano-ano pa! Ito ang lumalaganap na pagkilala sa SEAOIL na gusto ng mga motorista. Sa SEAOIL, tiyak ang asenso ng iyong kabuhayan.

Kalidad na global, sa presyong local. Iyan ang SEAOIL!

Maging isang Seaoil dealer.
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SEAOIL
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ETHYL

ETHYL ASIA PACIFIC COMPANY

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in the celebration of its 20th Anniversary.

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Tel. (045)895-1661 • Fax (045)895-1664

Head Office:
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Warmest Greetings

from

Subic Bay Distribution, Inc.

elpaso

Congratulations to
SEAOIL PETROLEUM CORP.

from

HEXAGON

Congratulations on your 20th Anniversary!
More power!

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TEXACO ADDITIVES INT'L. (ASIA) LTD.

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INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERS (PHILS.) INC.
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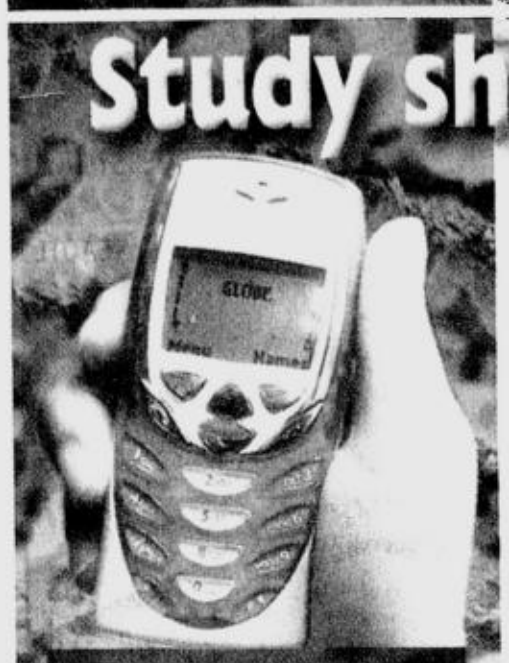
INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

Study shows Pinoys prefer SMS over e-mail



SURVEY SAYS:

- Filipino students admit using cell phone to cheat in exams
- 1 out of 3 teens use a cell phone in school
- 1 out of 3 male respondents give their cell phone numbers on the first date
- 2 out of 3 female respondents give their cell phone numbers on the first date
- 40 percent of married respondents say cell phone is useful in maintaining relationships
- 40 percent of married respondents use SMS to keep in touch with their partners while they're away
- 50 percent of married respondents admit using cell phone to check on their partners' whereabouts

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

FILIPINOS now use the text message capability of their mobile phones more extensively than their computers' electronic mail to stay in touch with each other, according to a study commissioned by German mobile phone company Siemens.

Filipinos were the heaviest users of short message service (SMS or text messaging) in Asia, according to the Siemens Mobile Lifestyle Survey. The survey was conducted by independent research firm Asia Market Intelligence. It involved 3,000 respondents from different countries including Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, India and

STUDY/ C12

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In today's digital world, computers play a major part in running everything, including your business. In a playing field laden with fierce competition, you need to be always up on your feet and your computer system up and running, on all fronts, at all times.

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Leonics' latest line of true line-interactive UPS products ensure your computer systems run smoothly and efficiently in 'round the clock business operations. *Leonics* UPS provides maximum protection with built-in AVR features, surge suppressors and true "up-to-specs" VA ratings.

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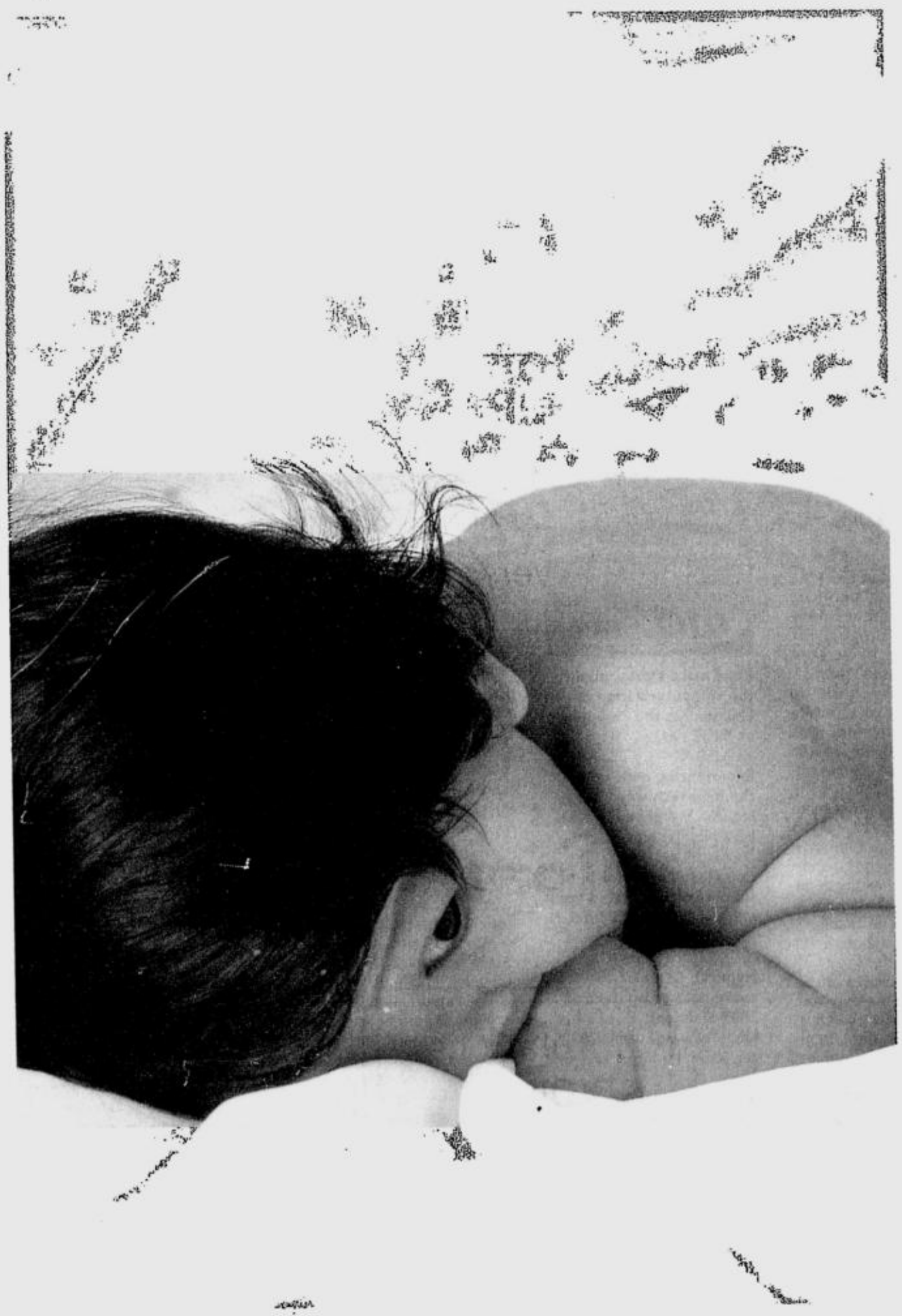

"1,000 perfect copies of me in the nude? How can I ever show my face again?"

Baby won't mind as long as they're as cute and as sharp as the original. Ah, the wonders of digital. Now, picture images look amazingly real, copy after copy after copy.

On its 28th year, U-BIX celebrates this wonderful age of digital technology.

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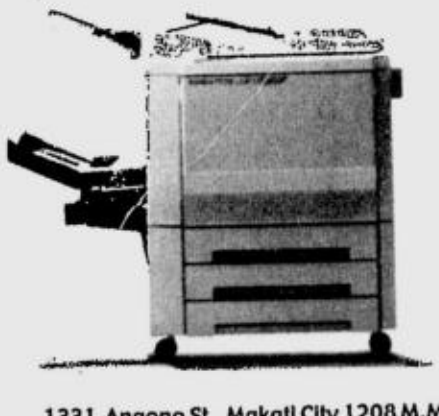

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Sta. Rosa, Laguna (049) 541-1140/41

Laws on convergence, Internet security, privacy drafted

By Erwin G. Oliva
INQ7.net

A GROUP composed of private and government representatives are working on laws on Internet security, privacy and convergence, according to a member of the country's highest policy-making body on information technology and communications.

Carlo Parlade, co-chair of the Information Technology and E-commerce Council (ITECC) Legal and Regulatory Committee, said the convergence bill will focus on "opening up" the market to more players, promoting investments in ICT and granting incentives to firms engaged in the high-tech business.

In Asia, countries like Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia have similar laws on convergence.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo stressed last year the need to pass a law on digital convergence, citing Singapore and Thailand as her primary models. Ms Macapagal said that the convergence bill would address "current economic and technological realities" that are not covered under existing laws.

Ms Macapagal noted that the convergence bill seeks to reorganize the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) into a National Infocoms Commission. The NTC is currently the regula-

LAWS/ C12

Alcatel keeps chin up amid global losses, downsizing

By Raul C. Dancel

TELECOMMUNICATIONS equipment maker Alcatel Philippines Inc. is keeping a bullish forecast this year despite reperc ussions of a $4.2-billion net loss chalked up last year by its parent firm, France's Alcatel SA.

"All vendors suffered, but the beautiful part is we're still No. 1 in the telecommunications infrastructure business. Most of our competitors suffered even bigger losses," Alcatel Philippines communications head Rod Estrera told the INQUIRER.

Alcatel reported a net loss of 4.96 billion euros, or $4.2 billion, for all of last year, the largest loss ever reported by a French corporation.

Alcatel is following in the footsteps of big rivals, like Ericsson AB of Sweden, which has reported its first unprofitable year in half a century. The companies have been hurt by the inability of the telecommunications industry, mired in debt, to move ahead with the extension of new networks to provide continuous service via the Internet.

In recent months, Alcatel announced it would eliminate roughly 34,500 jobs globally, so that its workforce at the end of 2001 stood at 99,300, from 113,000 a year earlier. At affiliates in the United States, the number of employees was expected to drop to 10,000 from 16,000.

Estrera said Alcatel's downsizing was not affecting the Philippines. "We're even hiring," he said.

He admitted, however, that Alcatel Philippines did not escape last year's global economic slowdown unscathed.

China is also casting a shadow on the Philippines, as its entry into the World Trade Organization is expected to take in the bulk of investments coming from companies in North America and Europe.

Alcatel currently has a joint venture in China called Shanghai Bell Co. Ltd. Established in 1984, Shanghai Bell recorded $1.1 billion in sales last year, up 45 percent from a year earlier. The company is currently producing a sizable chunk of the switching equipment, mobile phones and optic fibers that Alcatel ships to Asia and Europe.

READ MORE AT INQ7.net

Read more stories about the telecom and wireless industries in the Infotech section of INQ7.net.

In a news briefing, Alcatel Asia-Pacific director for customer development Patrick Delpy said "a lot will remain" for the Philippines despite China's "absolutely unbelievable" growth potential.

"Our revenue here is growing, and there's no reason to stop now," Delpy said.

Alcatel Philippines manager Santiago Gomez Jr. said the company would continue to focus on its wireless and broadband businesses, as these were the areas that were still offering huge financial opportunities. He noted that the Philippines currently has around 11 million mobile phone subscribers against some 3 million fixed-line users.

Gomez added that until 70 to 80 percent of the population has access to a mobile phone, there is still room for growth in the wireless business.

He admitted, though, that growth has not been as fast as in previous years.

Alcatel Philippines' performance last year got a big lift from a $200-million contract it clinched with Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. Digitel is set to roll out its wireless services in the first quarter of the year.

WANT to add a personal signature everytime you send an e-mail message? Here's how.

Using AutoSignatures with Outlook Express

By Jerry Liao

IF you're using Microsoft's Outlook Express, you can include any information you want (such as phone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail addresses) and place it automatically at the bottom of every new message. This is called an AutoSignature. Heres how to do it:

(1) Open Outlook Express.

(2)Click on "Tools" then go to "Stationery."

(3) Select the "Mail" tab and click on "Signature."

(4) Click on the "Text" check box and type the information you want to include in your signature.

(5) Click the "Add this signature to all outgoing messages" check box to select it, and then click "OK" or if you want to manually include your signature, click "Insert Signature" on the toolbar, or press Ctrl+Shft+S.

(6) If you want to add your signature to new messages only, click the "Don't add signature to Replies and Forwards" check box to select it.

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POWERTIPS

Comelec appeals for support of computerized elections

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) needs the public to pressure members of the commission en banc to support the planned automation of elections in 2002, an official said Friday.

"Public pressure is necessary to convince one of (the commissioners) to support the program," elections chair Alfredo Benipayo told reporters following a public consultation on the status of the agency's long-delayed program to modernize elections. "We need a massive campaign to convince people that automation is the answer to large-scale cheating in the elections. By 2004, the presidential elections would be at stake if we fail to push through with our plans."

The Comelec's decisions are often made through a majority vote by seven members of the commission en banc. At this time, Benipayo appears to have the support of two out of the five commissioners. Benipayo needs at least one vote to push through with the project that aims to automate the counting of votes.

During the public consulation, Benipayo said that it is important to "sell the project" to the public because the public, in turn, will put more pressure on the commissioners to decide what to do with modernization of the elections.

The Comelec is currently pushing for a project that will allow it to cut down time to count votes and consolidate results from the municipalities, cities and provinces. This project, if approved, will be implemented in the 2004 presidential elections.

READ THIS STORY ONLINE AT INQ7.net

Read more stories about the computerization of elections in the Philippines at INQ7.net.

Experiencing polls the high-tech way
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2002/feb/03/inf_1-1.htm

Comelec appeals for public support of automated polls
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2002/feb/09/inf_1-1.htm

Namfrel, Comelec to coordinate computerized 2004 elections
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/aug/30/inf_1-1.htm

Benipayo to handle elections modernization
http://www.inq7.net/brk/2001/may/17/brkpol_38-1.htm

Comelec executive director Mamasapunod Aguam said the agency has already sent a "request for information" to various suppliers for the 2,000 counting machines the project requires, and expects to start bidding for the machines by mid-2002. Deadline for the suppliers to give information about their machines is on Feb. 15.

"We expect to award the bid by yearend," Aguam said.

Following the testing and evaluation of the machines, and training of Comelec personnel in 2003, all the machines will be in place by 2004, Aguam added. The machines, which use optical scanners to read pencil shadings made in a special ballot, will be housed in counting centers nationwide.

"The automation of the elections will minimize human intervention, eliminate discretion, reduce errors in counting, and quicken the release of results," said Jun Tolentino Jr., director for Administrative services of the Comelec.

With automation, the Comelec expects to complete counting of votes in 24 hours, the canvassing and proclamation of municipal and city officials in 2.5 days, provincial officials in 3.5 days, and senators and party list in 7.5 days.

The Comelec is working with the private sector on the automation of vote-counting project, Telibert Laoc, executive director of the National Movement for Free Elections, said in an interview.

"Public pressure is necessary for the automation of elections to work. The Comelec will need all the help," Laoc said. "One of the primary challenges of the automation of the elections is securing the commission en banc's approval."

Fujitsu, Siemens to launch PDA using Intel chip

JAPANESE firm Fujitsu and German powerhouse Siemens are set to launch a personal digital assistant that will be powered by Microsoft's PocketPC software and Intel's next generation microprocessors called X-scale.

Industry sources said that the new device called Pocket LOOX will run on the latest PocketPC—the Microsoft operating system for personal digital assistants. It will also come with a 64-Mb random access memory and 32 Mb of flash read-only memory. This little but powerful PDA will also include a SecureDigital/MMC media slot.

E. Oliva

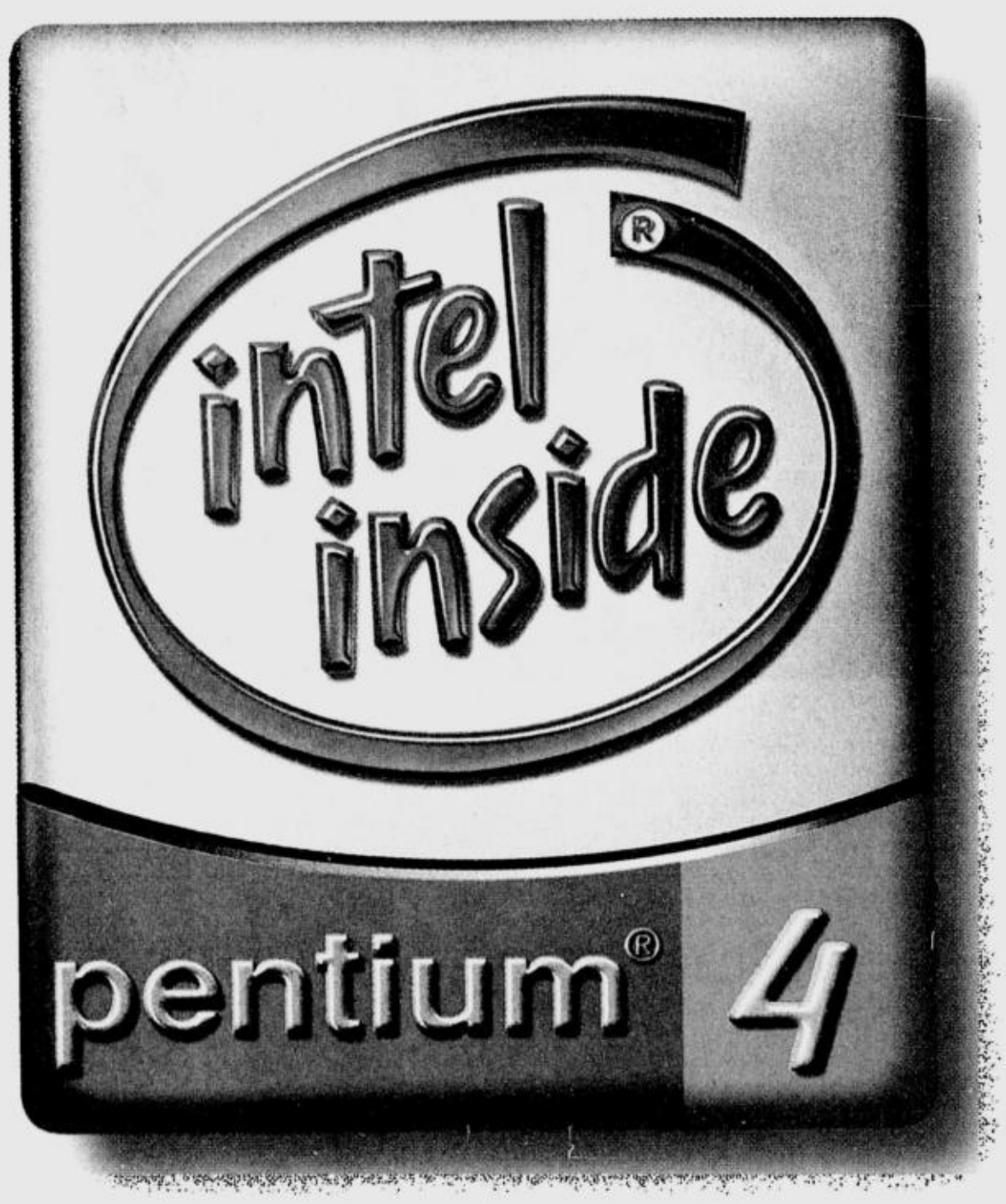
Apple to receive Grammy award

APPLE Computer has been named as one of the recipients of the 2002 Technical Grammy Award, which honors individuals and companies who have made contributions of outstanding technical significance to the recording field.

The awards will be presented on Feb. 26, 2002 at a ceremony a day before the 44th Annual Grammy Awards. Recipients of the Technical Grammy Award are determined by the vote of the members of the Recording Academy's Producers & Engineers Wing, a group of 5,000 pro-audio professionals dedicated to developing new technologies, recording and mastering standards, as well as other critical issues affecting their craft.

The first Technical Grammy was awarded in 1994.

Max Headroom.



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iAcademy trying to change image of IT training in RP

By Joel Pinaroc

A LOCAL information technology institution is attempting to change the image of IT-based learning in the country, following a tie-up it made with popular television channel MTV and the appointment of an MTV "VJ" or video jockey as the school's endorser.

iAcademy, a wholly owned subsidiary of Systems Technology Institute and a partner of Carnegie Technology Education, the technology arm of Carnegie Mellon University, is trying to alter the image of IT learning from "stiff" to "hip" by appointing new MTV VJ Anna Shier as its spokesperson.

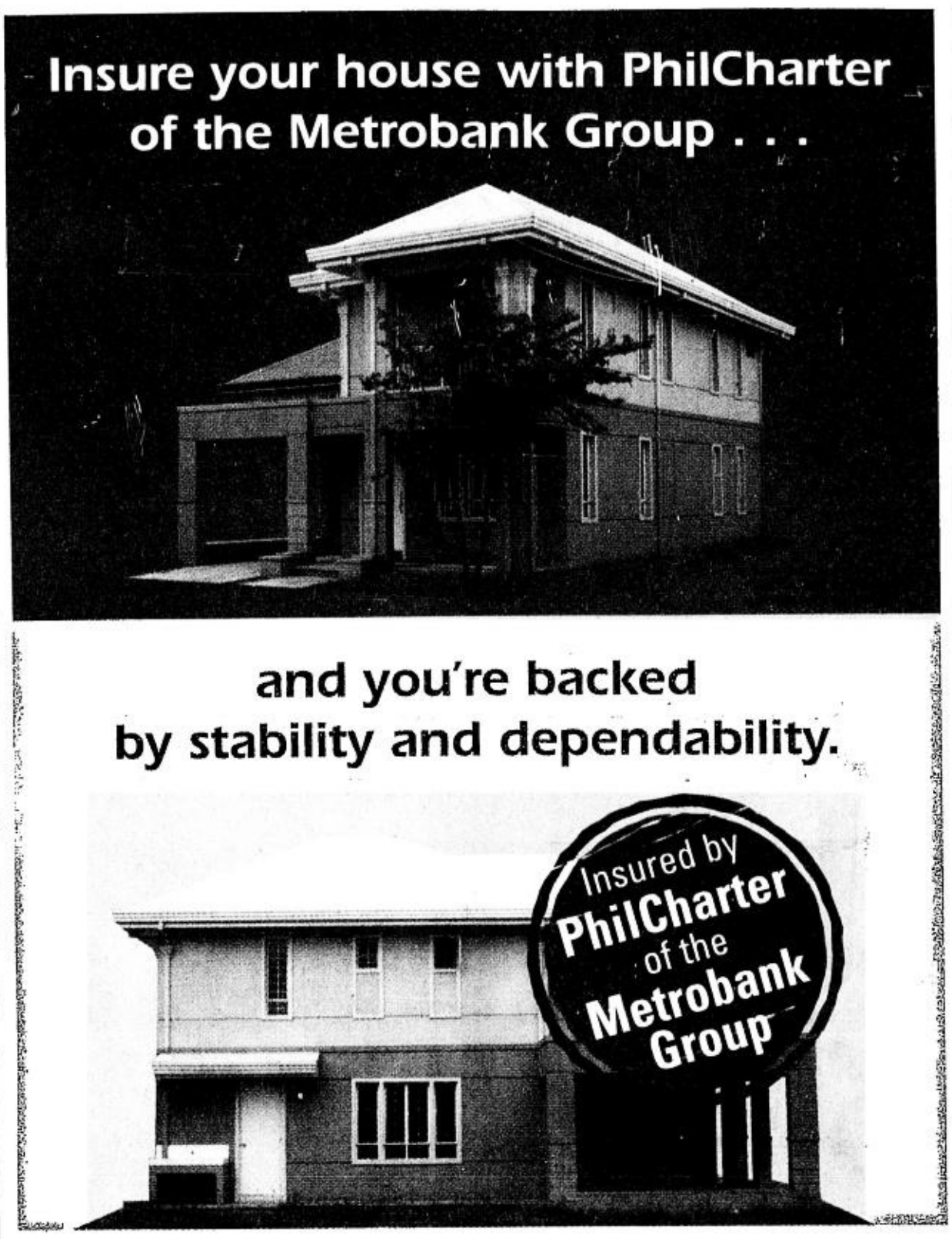
Not that the scheme of getting celebrity endorsers is new, with STI and its rival AMA fronting local celebrities, but iAcademy dean Mitch Andaya sees the school's partnership with MTV as a groundbreaking development combining the mainstream popularity of MTV and the academic excellence Carnegie Mellon is known for to make iAcademy truly unique.

IT learning in the Philippines is not really known as an area for the hip generation, as it carries with it an image of being a serious and often strict discipline made for technology geeks.

Andaya is hoping the partnership with MTV will erase this image and attract the country's youth to enroll at iAcademy and take on various IT courses including Computer Science, Information Management, and Business Administration degrees, to name some. There are also various certificate programs on IT which, Andaya claims, were developed by Carnegie Technology Education.

While the tuition fee, pegged at about P40,000 per semester, may be steep, Andaya noted that instructors for the said courses will be highly competent and that professors from Carnegie Mellon University may soon visit the local campus and hold seminars for Filipino students in the near future.

iAcademy just recently inaugurated its P30-million facility in Makati City, the first to locate its campus at the heart of the country's commercial and business district. iAcademy is set to start its school year this June, Andaya said.



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IT'S Valentine's Week at YOU, the youth website of INQ7.net. Accessible at www.you.inq7.net, YOU is the website for today's interactive youth. The site places in one portal the Junior Inquirer, 2bU! and Cross-Campus. For Valentine's Week , YOU is coming up with specials for the day of hearts, including a Love Meter which tells you how compatible you are with your significant other. At 2bU!, the site discusses a different angle on Valentine's Day, focusing instead on heartbreaks and goodbyes instead of the mushiness and happy stories usually associated with Valentine's Day.

Laws on convergence, Internet . . .

From page C10

tory body overseeing activities of the telecommunications sector.

The ITECC Legal and Regulatory Committee is currently working with lawmakers draft the law creating the Department of Information and Communications Technology. This new department will eventually "absorb" the NTC.

Meanwhile, the law on Internet security and privacy will deal with strengthening the country's cybercrime legislation, Parlade said.

Parlade noted that the ITECC Legal and Regulatory Committee would be working on the Net security and privacy law with the ITECC sub-committee on Internet security, headed by Albert de la Cruz, interim president of the Philippine Computer Emergency Response Team.

The laws on convergence, Net security and privacy are among the "priority" legislations of this administration, as outlined in the President's State of the Nation Address.

Study says Pinoys prefer SMS . . .

From page C9

Vietnam. The study was concluded in December 2001.

The study focused on three groups: the youth (16 to 24 years), couples (18 to 54 years) and office workers (18 to 54 years).

Among the Filipino youth, the survey discovered that the mobile phone has become an indispensible tool for communication and mobilizing gatherings. The study showed that majority of the respondents use mobile phones to stay in touch with each other, apart from exchanging jokes.

Interestingly, some of those surveyed admitted to using the cellular phone to cheat during exams in school. Only one out of three Filipino youth, however, use their mobile phones in school, the survey indicated.

Almost one-third of the male youth surveyed said that they gave away their mobile phone numbers on their first date. Among females, the situation was the reverse since two-thirds freely offered their numbers on the first date.

The survey results on the mobile phone usage of couples tell a different story.

While most couples in the survey said that they rely on mobile phones "to move their relationship to the next level," only 40 percent of the respondents find the device helpful. Still, the survey indicated that the same percentage of couples religiously sent text messages to their partners to keep in touch.

Filipino couples rarely propose via text messaging, but more than 50 percent of the respondents said that they use it to check up on their partner's whereabouts, the survey noted. A handful of the respondents also admitted to spying on their partner's mobile phone calls and messages sent.

Filipino respondents have used their mobile phones as a work-related tool fairly often, the study showed. More men admitted to using the mobile phone at work, while only a few women use it for business purposes.

Compared with other respondents in other countries, only one out of two Filipino respondents said they use their mobile phones to stay in touch with their office at all times. However, only a few would attempt to turn off their mobile handsets during holidays.

The Philippines is now touted as the world's texting capital. The country has now close to 10 million mobile cellular phone subscribers and about a million text messages are sent back and forth through the two local cellular phone networks every day.

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For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

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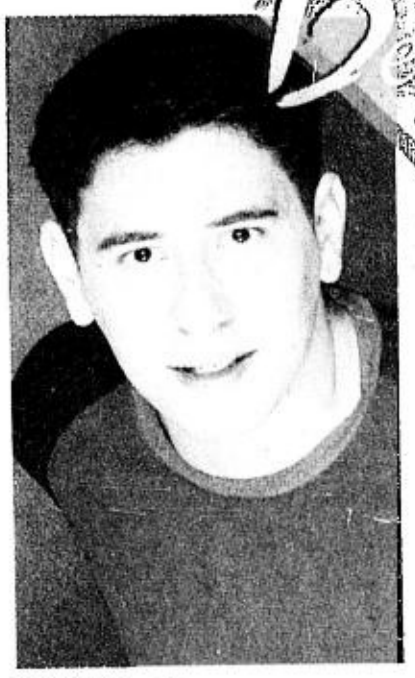

BOBBY Garcia

Favorite romantic passages to swoon by

(Story on page D4)

Could the many splendors of love be expressed exhaustively? Writers and celebrities mine and recite their favorite expressions, drawn from sources literary and hardly literary

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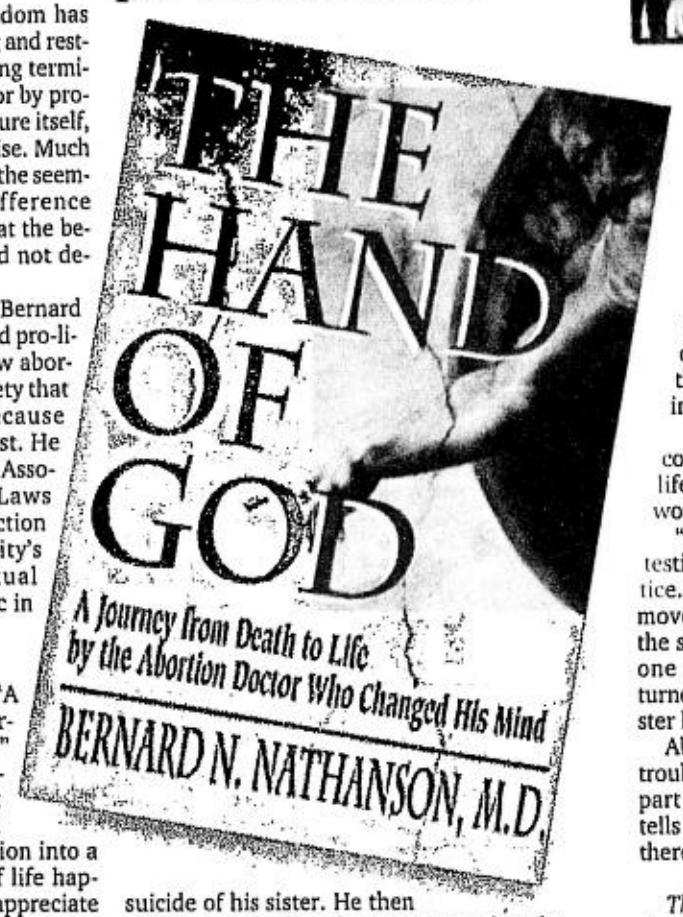
An abortion doctor embraces life

The Hand of God
By Bernard N. Nathanson, M.D.
Regnery Publishing, Inc., Washington DC, 1996)

By Eldric Paul Peredo
Contributor

Forthcoming Manila visitor Dr. Bernard Nathanson used to run the world's largest abortion clinic. Now he is a leading voice of the pro-life movement



REVIEW

ABORTION remains one of the most hotly debated issues today. Especially in the United States, where the procedure was made legal in the late '50s, pro-lifers continue to engage the pro-choicers in battle, both in the courts and on the streets.

We are in a time where sexual freedom has found its way into the minds of the young and restless, and unwanted pregnancies are being terminated by the use of abortifacient drugs or by procuring the procedure itself, legally or otherwise. Much more appalling is the seeming ethical indifference shown by abortion doctors who swore at the beginning of their careers to protect, and not destroy, life.

It is against this background that Dr. Bernard N. Nathanson, an abortion doctor turned pro-lifer, paints a grim if clear picture of how abortion has grown into the monster of society that it is. The account is compelling because Nathanson was no ordinary abortionist. He was co-founder in 1969 of the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (later the National Abortion Rights Action League) and director of New York City's Center for Reproductive and Sexual Health, then the largest abortion clinic in the world.

Great leap

In "The Hand of God," subtitled "A Journey from Death to Life by the Abortion Doctor Who Changed His Mind," Nathanson writes from an autobiographical perspective about his great leap from being a doctor who helped fan the flames of the abortion revolution into a person who discovers the wonders of life happening inside the womb and comes to appreciate the unborn human being.

Nathanson devotes the first several chapters to the story of his family, especially that of his father whose strict and authoritarian ways pushed him to become a medical doctor and contributed to the suicide of his sister. He then tells the reader how he was exposed to the practice of abortion in the '50s—a shady, illegal, but not uncommon practice—as he went through medical school. He recounts how his father's coldness led him to procure an abortion for his pregnant girlfriend, and how this, plus the apathy of the times, molded him into the conscienceless abortionist he eventually became.

Advances

But the advances of his field ironically led to his gradual conversion. With the advent of such technology as ultrasound, life in the womb was first observed, leading to his own realization of what abortion really was—the murder of "the most helpless of human beings."

In the end, this realization made possible his conversion into what he is now, an advocate of life and a seeker of the One who authored its wonders.

"The Hand of God," at the least, stands as a testimony to the inhumanity of the abortion practice. Although rabid members of the pro-choice movement continue to defend abortion, here is the story of one who was once at its forefront—one of the most skilled, in fact—and how he turned his back to the horrendous face of the monster he had helped create.

Abortion not only destroys the unborn, but also trouble and traumatize the lives of those who take part in it. Nathanson skillfully, if not movingly, tells the reader to take it from one who had been there.

The Episcopal Commission on Family and Life of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, Pro-life Philippines and Human Life International-Asia will present Dr. Bernard Nathanson on Feb. 17, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at St. Paul's College-Manila. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. Free admission.

'Who Owns Women's Bodies?' the book to be launched

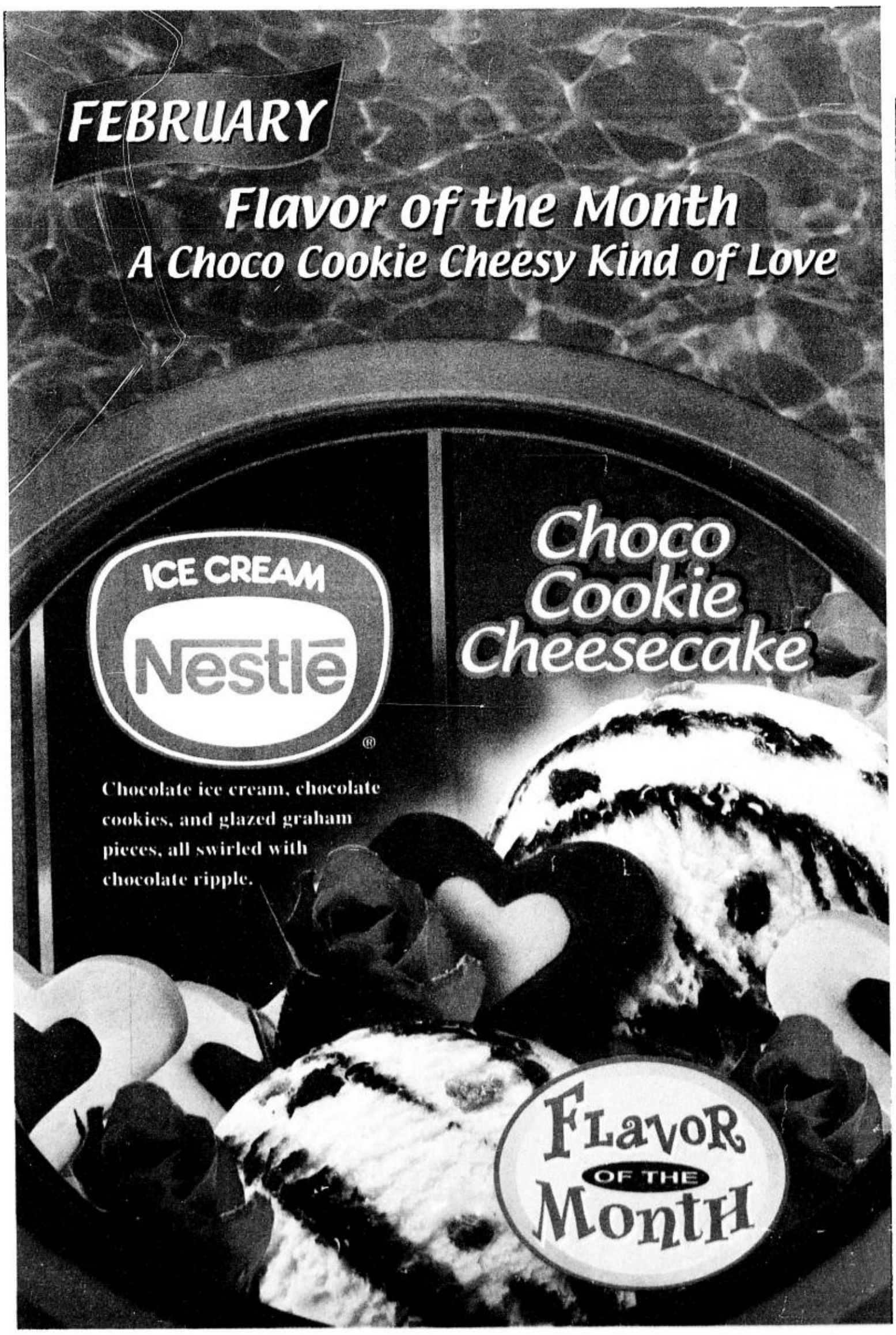
THE CREATIVE Collective Center, with the Ford Foundation, will launch "Who Owns Women's Bodies?" on Feb. 12, at 6 p.m., at the Filipinas Heritage Library Reading Room, Nielson Tower, Makati Avenue, Makati.

Edited by Rochit I. Tanedo and Rosario Cruz Lucero with a foreword by Bienvenido Lumbera, the book documents the traveling exhibit of 30 visual artists last year and includes essays discussing their contributions to the discourse on sexuality and reproductive health and rights.

The essays are written by Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, Marilyn Canta, Flaudette May Datuin, Sylvia Estrada-Claudio, Karen Flores, Alice Guillermo, Corazon Hila, Cecilia Locsin-Nava, Jose Tence Ruiz, and others.

US EXPERTS HERE FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Dr. Rita Dunn and Dr. Karen Burke of the International Learning Styles Network are welcomed at the airport by Prof. Henry S. Tenedero, president of the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles Philippines, the lead organizer of the 3rd National Education Conference on Learning Styles which is scheduled today until Feb. 12 at the Philippine International Convention Center. Dunn and Burke will lead the speakers in this year's conference which will have for its theme "Festival of Learning Styles and Teaching Strategies." Registration still open. Call 374-4967, 936-6790, 372-7665, 372-7664, 411-9721 and 373-9843.



New book on fund-raising

VENTURE for Fund Raising Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides consuming, public information, research and training assistance on fund-raising to other nonprofit organizations in the Philippines and Asia, announces the sale of the first-ever book on giving and fund-raising in the country, "Investing in Ourselves: Giving and Fund-Raising in the Philippines."

Part of a seven-country resource mobilization project on giving and fund-raising in Asia sponsored by the Asian Development Bank, United States Agency for International Development, the Nippon Foundation and the Asia Foundation through the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, "Investing in Ourselves" paints a picture of Filipinos' philanthropic habits through a survey conducted from August 1999 to mid-2000. It also documents Philippine NGOs' fund-raising experiences and best practices by including 15 case studies from different nonprofit organizations.

A valuable resource for many NGOs and academics in the development field, "Investing in Ourselves" was published with the support of the Asia Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development. It is available for only P200 to regular customers, and P150 to training participants, at Venture for Fund-Raising's office at 2801 Jollibee Plaza Condominium, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call 634-8889 to 90 or e-mail info@venture-asia.org.

BIC has been named top stationery brand in the United States in three out five top brand studies in the past years. Spokesperson Linda Kwong says such patronage owes to the company's dedication to innovation. Bic has introduced pens with special grips and gel inks to widen its customer appeal to all age groups. "The whole philosophy of the company has been to apply a high-tech process with a flare for innovation," Kwong says. "Those things combined really deliver a powerful line of stationery products." Bic pens are available at National Bookstore.

CEBU

BRIGHT SUNNY CITY

Cebu now a mag

BEAUTIFUL beach resorts, delicious dried mangoes and the grand Sinulog Festival. These are just some of the things that we easily associate with Cebu City. But the list of delightful yet unknown facets that make up the beautiful "Queen City of the South" is endless. This inspired entrepreneur and publisher Jay Aldeguer to launch Cebu Magazine, which is a unique and in-depth guide to anything and everything about Cebu City.

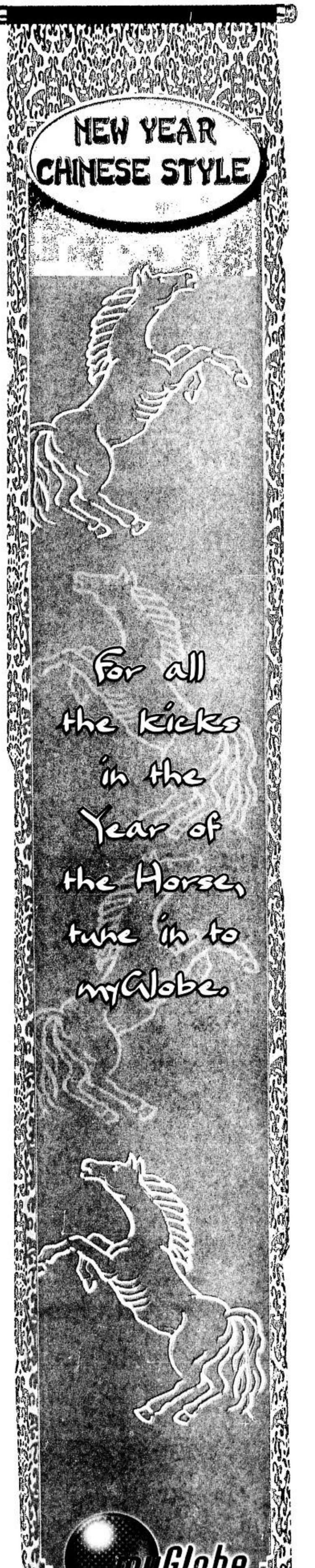
The bi-monthly magazine offers the best of Cebu with its special features on places, politics, personalities, music, nightlife, culture and cuisine. It also highlights the uniqueness and potential of Cebu as one of the best places in the world for both domestic and foreign tourists.

On the cover is model Devvy Gayon, as she enjoys the tranquil beach of Caohagan Island, Mactan. The issue includes a feature on Malapascua Island, considered Cebu's Boracay with its kilometer stretch of white sand beach, and an interesting interview with Cebu Mayor Tomas Osmeña.

There's also a detailed look into the grandiose Sinulog celebration, the numerous bars and bistros that make up the city's bustling nightlife and the resurgence of local bands. Plus, a story on the country's oldest street which runs through the heart of Cebu City and a peek into the lives of three former Miss Cebu Tourism titleholders.

Call Destinations Media Inc. at (032) 233-4550 or (032) 233-4558.

SEVEN creators headline the special designer homes edition of BluPrint. Joven Cuanang offers his Antipolo house as proof of his drift to complexity. Atong Manzano merges Scandinavian elements with tropical motifs in his house. Edwin Gumila differentiates between a showcase and a livable home. Claude Tayag shows the symbiotic relationship of nature and art. Arlen de Guzman creates paradise. Ricky Baylosis makes a tropical empire out of his structure. BluPrint is published bi-monthly by Mega Magazines and Publications. It is available in all bookstores. Call 631-2859 or log on to www.ivegotstyle.net.



NEW YEAR
CHINESE STYLE

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in the
Year of the
Horse...

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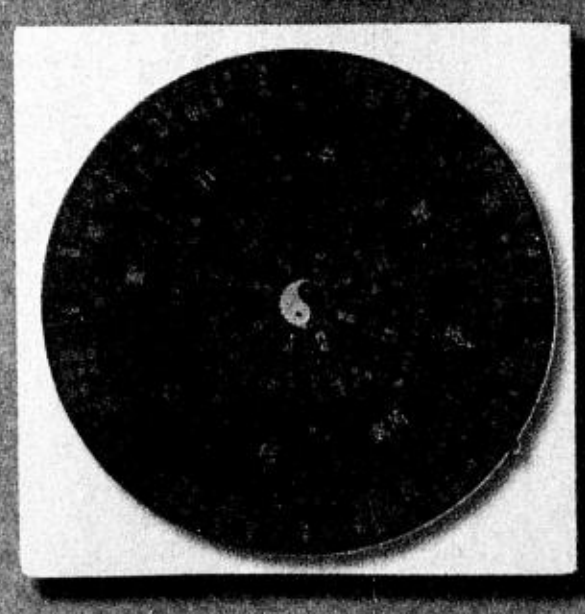

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LOURD Ernest de Veyra

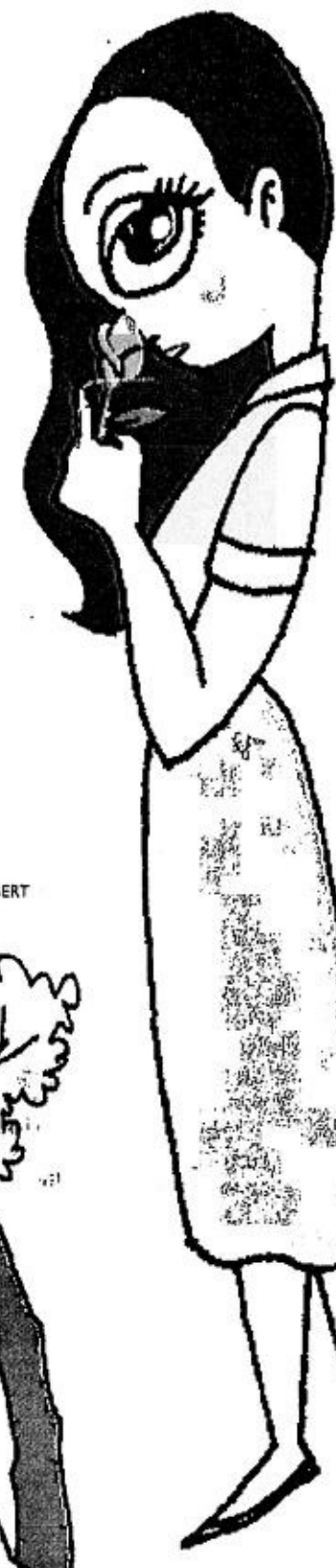
KARLA Delgado

BOY Abunda

Favorite romantic passages to swoon by

By Jerome Gomez
Contributor

FOR WRITER Karla Delgado, it hit her like a lightning bolt. For Celeste Legaspi, as always, it came as a song, written by the bard she calls "Lord Joey Reyes." For Gina Tagasa, it came care of a "cheesy poetry book." And for Boy Abunda, it was a message from a taxi driver. Lovers of the written word share with us their most beloved love passages.



ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Bienvenido Lumbera, poet, critic, professor, Ramon Magsaysay laureate

"*Ang pag-ibig, isipin mo, pag inisip, nasa-puso!*

Pag pinuso, nasa-isip, kaya't hindi mo makuro.

Lapitan mo nang matagal, ang pagsuyo'y naglalaho;

Layuan mo at kay-lungkot, nananaghoy ang pagsuyo!"

—Jose Corazon de Jesus or Huseng Batute, "Pag-ibig"

Ophelia Dimalanta, poet

"I do not know what it is in you
That opens and closes
I only know the voice of your eyes
Is deeper than all roses."

—e.e. cummings, "somewhere i had never traveled gladly beyond"

"Music is feeling then
Not sound; and thus
It is that what I feel,
Here in this room, desiring you."

—Wallace Stevens, "Peter Quince at the Clavier"

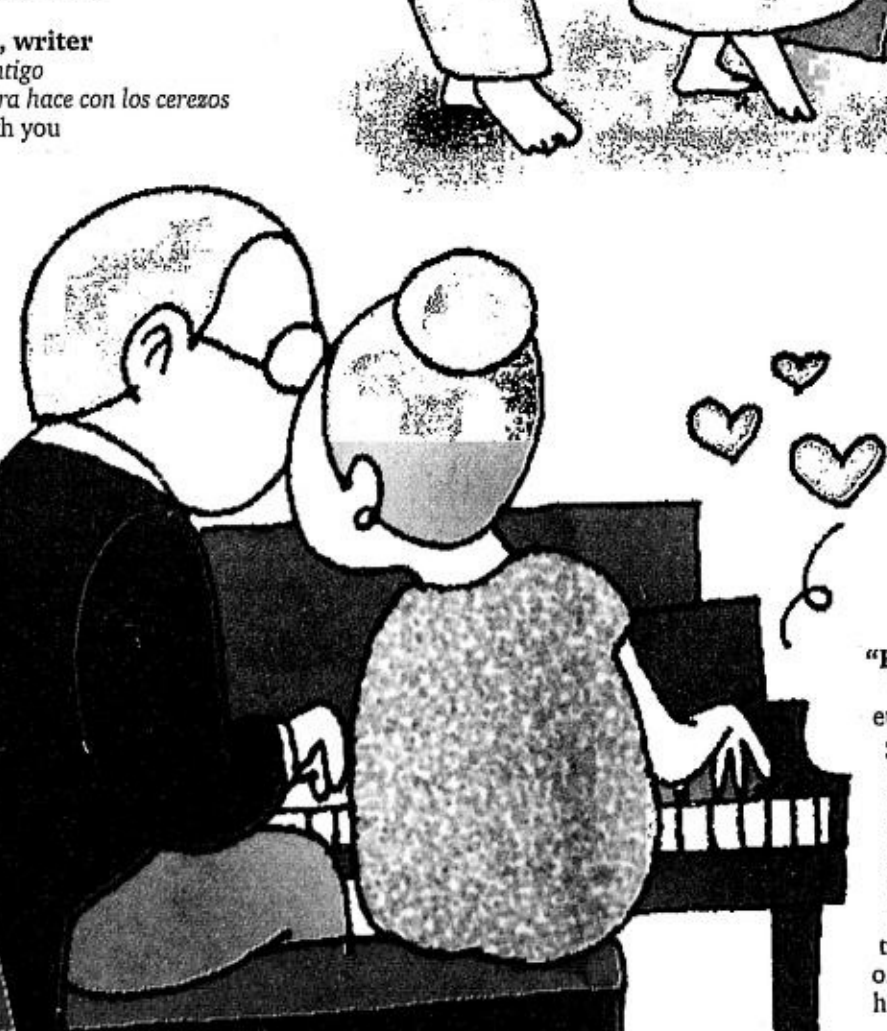
Celeste Legaspi, producer, "Alikabok"

"*Ano na lang yung kaunting pasakit kung katumbas ay pagmamahal.*"

—Jose Javier Reyes, "Katy!"

Karla Delgado, writer

"*Quiero hacer contigo*
lo que la primavera hace con los cerezos
(I want to do with you



GINA Marissa Tagasa

what spring does to the cherry blossom trees)."

—Pablo Neruda

Bobby Garcia, theater director, "Rent," "Proof"

"Wherefore let us exhort all men to piety, that we may avoid evil and obtain the good, of which love is to us the lord and minister; and let no one oppose him—he is the enemy of the god who opposes him. For if we are friends of the god and at peace with him, we shall find our own true love. I believe that if our love were perfectly accomplished and each one returning to his primeval nature had his original true love, then a race would be happy."

—Plato, "Symposium"

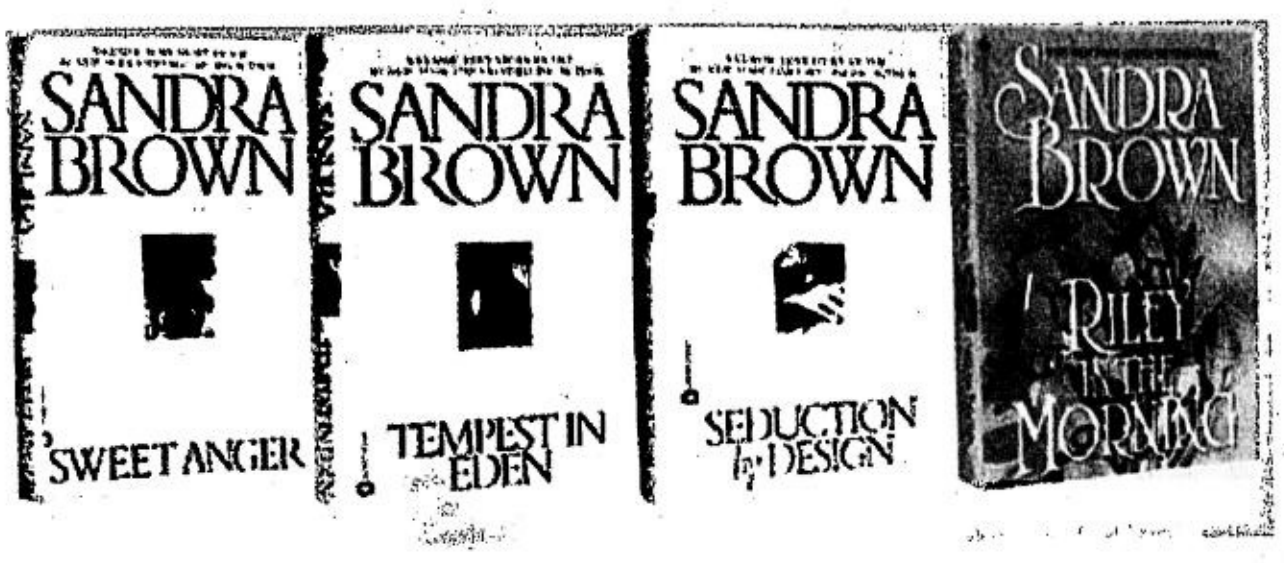
Gina Marissa Tagasa, teleplay writer

"There is happiness in knowing that my heart will always be a place where I can hold you and can keep you near me."

—Helen Rice, "A Time to Love"

FAVORITE/ p.D5

Romance novelist is author of the month



SANDRA Brown, one of romance's best-loved authors, is National Bookstore's author of the month. Born in Texas, Brown developed a love of books and storytelling at an early age, encouraged by her parents. She majored in English at Texas Christian University, which she attended for two years before marrying Michael Brown in 1968. She continued her education at Oklahoma State University and the University of Texas at Arlington. Brown sold her first two books, "Love's Encore" and "Love Beyond Reason," which were published just within 13 days of each other in 1981.

Brown's early careers included performing in theater, managing a cosmetics store and modeling at the Dallas apparel mart. She also appeared in television commercials, which led to a part-time job in television, weather and feature reporting on the nationally syndicated PM Magazine.

SANDRA Brown

When Brown was dismissed from her job, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise because it prompted her to do what she'd always said she would like to do: full-time fiction writing.

Taking the advice of a published writer who appeared on Michael Brown's morning TV talk show, Sandra attended a writers' conference at the University of Houston where she was exposed to a whole new world, meeting authors, literary agents and publishers. Inspired by the ideas exchanged at the conference, she tried her hand at writing for the lucrative romance market.

In 1987, Brown decided to move away from bona fide romances into the mainstream fiction market. The gamble paid off when, in 1990, her novel "Mirror Image" made The New York Times' bestseller list. Since then, all her novels have been Times bestsellers, including reprints of the early romances, bringing the total to 37.

These books include "Tempest in Eden," "Sweet Anger," "Seduction by Design" and "Riley in the Morning." In 1992, her book "French Silk" was made into an ABC-TV movie.

For five consecutive years, she received awards from Waldenbooks for having the best-selling contemporary romance series. She received two similar awards from B. Dalton. In 1992, the American Business Women's Association honored her with a Distinguished Circle of Success. In 1998, the Romance Writers of America's Association recognized her with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Favorite romantic passages to swoon by

From page D4

Boy Abunda, TV host, "Private Conversations"

"When we're together we kill each other. But when I'm not with you, I'm dying."

—Taxi driver

DIMALANTA

LUMBERA

Daphne Oseña, TV host, "F"

"Nobody will ever know how much I love Diego. I don't want anything to hurt him. Nothing to bother him or to sap the energy that he needs to live—to live the way he feels better. Painting, seeing, loving, eating, sleeping, feeling lonely, feeling accompanied—but I never want him to be sad and if I had my health I'd like to give it all to him, if I had my youth he could have it all. I'm not just your—mother—I am the embryo, the germ, the first cell which potentially engendered him—I am him from the most primitive... and the most ancient cells, that with time became him."

—Frieda Kahlo, "The Diary of Frieda Kahlo, An Intimate Self-portrait"

Vic Barba, fashion designer

"Never fear the risk of getting hurt when you're in love. It is only through pain that you can live a complete life."

—Indian tantra

Lourd Ernest de Veyra, poet/vocalist, Radioactive Sago Project

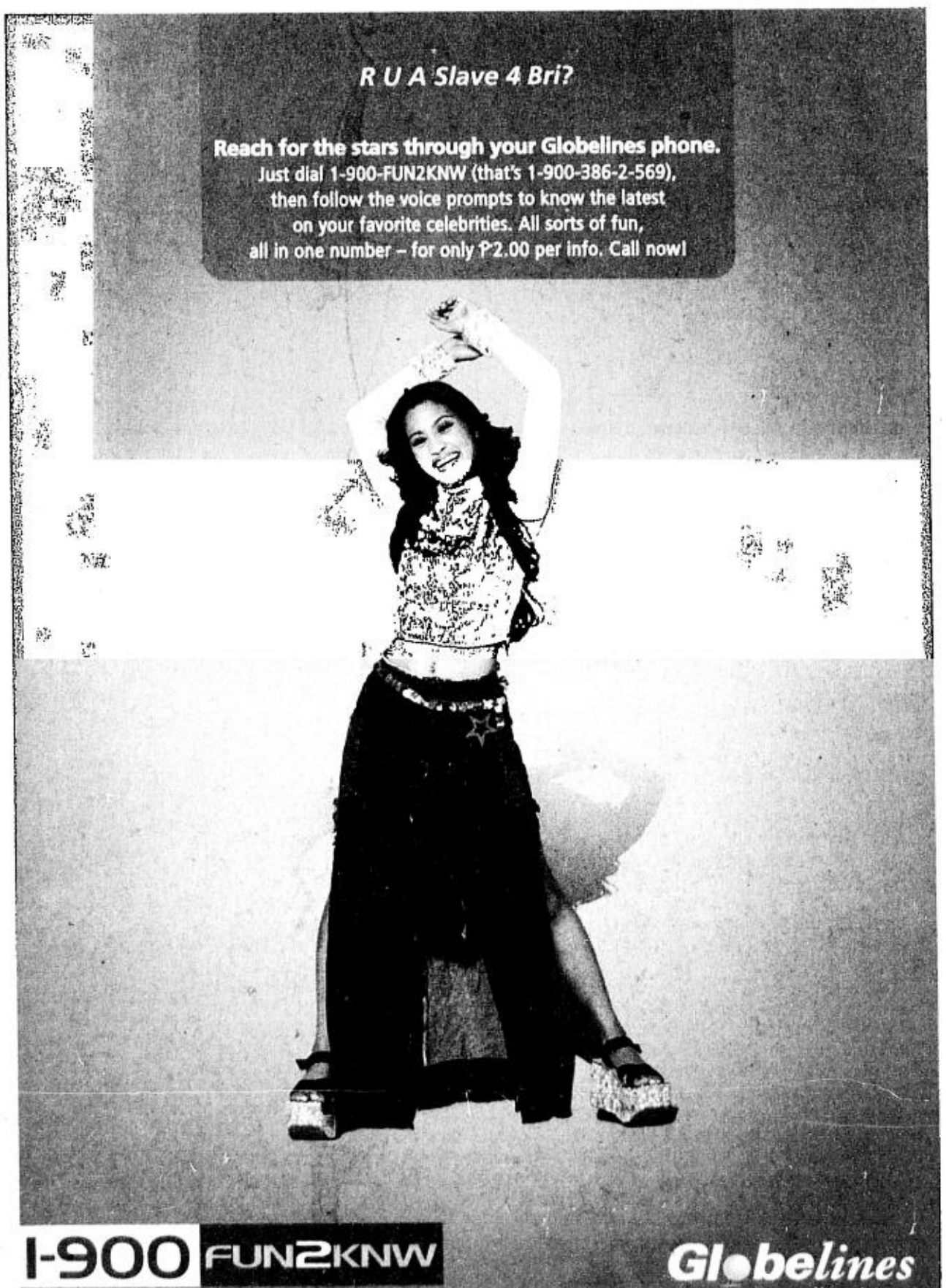
"Today our bodies became vast,
They grew to the edge of the world
And rolled melting
Into a single drop
Of wax or meteor."

—Pablo Neruda

Carla Sibal, designer

"The direct experience of spirit is the only lasting foundation for love."

—Deepak Chopra



WRITERS pore over text before oral reading: (from left) Michael Coroza, Ramil Gulle, F. Sionil Jose, Ophelia Dimalanta, Ralph Galan, Cirilo Bautista and Rebecca Anonuevo

CD of literary readings captures passion, pitch and fervor of creation

By Jerome Gomez
Contributor

IF indeed the proof of the poetry is in the hearing, then the latest project to come out of the hard-driving Center for Creative Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas may be the first to rise up to the test—on record. This week, the center is releasing a CD recording of poetry read by its multi-awarded writing associates, including an excerpt from F. Sionil Jose's novel "Poon" as rendered by the National Artist himself.

Called "Ustinig," a portmanteau of "Uste" (as the Pontifical University is known in street language and as the readers/writers are all alumni of the venerable Dominican institution) and "*tinig*" (or voice), the CD is a mean package of 29 literary cuts with timely dashes of musical scoring by Malec Lopez of the alternative group Rubber Ink.

Can writers read? Do they sound as good as the lyrics they put to paper?

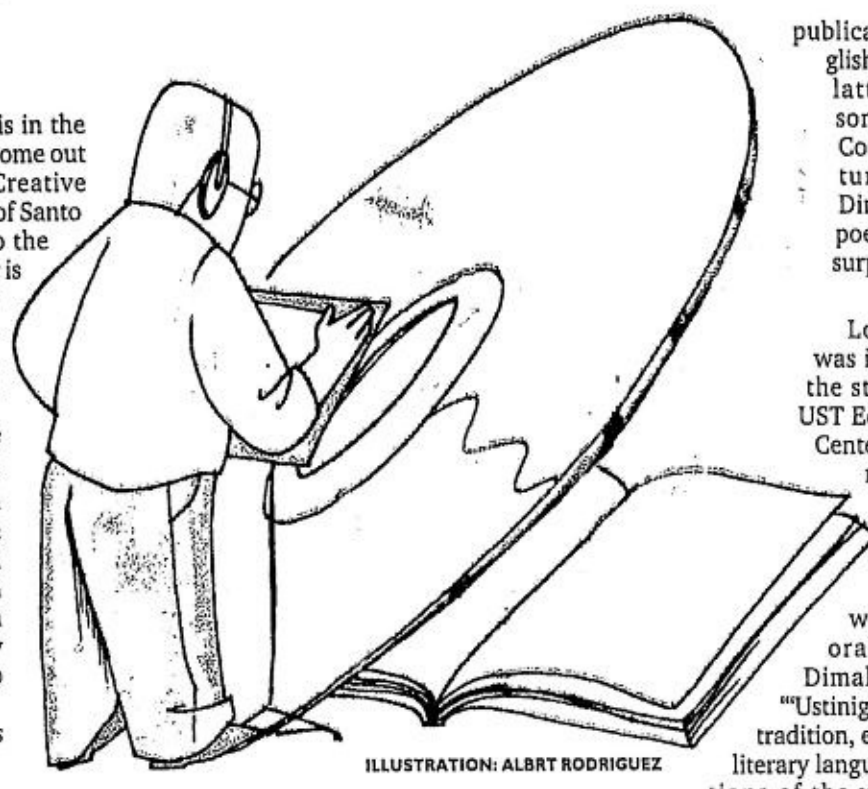


ILLUSTRATION: ALBRT RODRIGUEZ

Aurally appropriate

"These are people who have not done sound recording in their entire lives," says Lourd de Veyra, junior writing associate of UST and the project's overall director. Except for him, of course. The guy is more popularly known as the cool, eloquent vocalist of Radioactive Sago Project and host of MYX's top-rating "Halo-halo" on Studio 23. "Our first consideration in choosing the poetry was that they have to be aurally appropriate, *maganda sa pandinig*. Then they have to at least be well-known pieces and not declamatory. More bedroom, more intimate." And nothing too lengthy.

So no epic poem from Cirilo Bautista. No "Montage" from Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta. Although the two get to read three each from their body of work. A bluesy violin romantically accompanies Bautista and imbues with melancholy his observations of a learned man looking at young lovers from his window in "Athens, Ohio." Music begins and ends Dimalanta's "A Kind of Burning." Lourd said the producers had wanted a "bedroom" Dimalanta, and Lady Polyester, as the poetess is known, indulged them. Her half-whispers throughout the piece is a postcoital monologue of a doomed romance. Very personal, very private, very intimate and, if Lourd might add, "sexy."

To be sure, Dimalanta wants the "sexy" image banished because, it seems, it doesn't sit too well with the friars. Perhaps too tame that image, she is also releasing the book of her contemporary opera, "Lorenzo Ruiz, Escribano," about the first Filipino saint. The 1995 production was set to music by Jerry Dadap from the Filipino translation by Florentino Hornedo and directed by Isagani Cruz. The publication includes the English and Filipino texts (the latter by Hornedo with some help from Michael Coroza). Lovers of literature who pigeonhole Dimalanta as "that erotic poet" will be in for a holy surprise.

Oral tradition

Lourd said Dimalanta was impatient recording in the studio of the high-tech UST Educational Technology Center. As were some of the more senior writers like Jose, a literary lion despite his un-lion-like size.

"Literature has always been initially an oral tradition," says Dimalanta in the foreword. "'Ustinig' attempts to revive this tradition, exploring the nuances of literary language through oral renditions of the written word. [It's] a confluence of Thomasian voices on varied subjects and in varying degrees and intensities of passion, pitch and fervor."

"Ustinig," aside from being a gathering of true-blue Tomasinos, is also a mix of young and veteran voices. Featured poets include Rebecca Anonuevo, Michael M. Coroza, J. Neil Garcia, Nerisa Guevara, Jose Victor Torres (who reads dramatic passages from his plays), this section's sub-editor Joselito Zulueta, Ramil Gulle and Vim Nadera, who recites his poem over a rap beat.

"Ustinig" by Thomasian writers and "Lorenzo Ruiz, Escribano" by Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta will be launched on Feb. 15, 5 p.m., at the Center for Intercultural Studies, 5/F UST Central Library. The public is invited. Call 731-3101 local 8281.

WRITERS ALL. The 39th Likhaan UP National Writers Workshop in Davao brought together writers in Sugbuanon, Kiniray-a, Waray, Filipino and English, including (seated, from left) Jaime An Lim, Timothy Montes, Jimmy Abad, Ricky de Ungria (workshop director), Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo (UP writing center director), Pete Lacaba and Leoncio Deriada. The fellows included (standing, from left) Cormarie Villojan, Daryll Delgado, Gabriela Lee, Genevive Asenjo, Karen Rivero, Germelina Lacorte, Duke Bagulaya, Ramel Taculod, Alex de los Santos and Mike Ligalig.

A journal on the UP Writers Workshop

By April Timbol Yap
Contributor

THE FIRST place that made an impression on me in Davao was the airport, particularly the arrival area. The curb of the driveway at the arrival area where we—UP Creative Writing Center director Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, workshop panelists Gemino Abad and Pete Lacaba, staff Ralph Galan, Lara Saguisag and myself—spent the first 45 minutes of our stay, having been left behind by the hotel van. Finally, after some phone calls, a second vehicle arrived and we were brought to the Grand Men Seng Hotel, site of the 39th UP National Writers Workshop.

The hotel lobby restaurant, Le Grandeur, was an oasis and the warm welcome given by workshop director UP Mindanao chancellor Ricardo de Ungria and writer Aida Rivera-Ford did much to soothe our frayed nerves. Not as warm, however, was the lunch prepared by the hotel kitchen, which was composed of leftovers from the buffet. But nobody really minded because we were in a rather advanced state of hunger.

For seven days, the Grand Men Seng was home. All of us—workshop fellows, panelists and staff—would make our way from our rooms to Le Grandeur for the meals, then it was off to the d'Azure function room for the sessions.

Oct. 20 saw us scurrying to different parts of the hotel: the Serenade function room, where the lectures on teaching Philippine literature organized by UP Mindanao, and the book launching of Alfred Yuson's "The Word on Paradise" were held; and, the Body Gym (yes, you read right, the gym), where the seminar-workshop on journalism—also organized by UP Mindanao—was conducted. But most of the time, we were firmly planted in d'Azure. (For future reference, please take note of the pronunciation lest you be connected to the wrong room or repeatedly corrected. You must enunciate each syllable clearly: *dee azyoor*).

Dee Azyoor was a good place for the workshop sessions. It was neither cramped nor cavernous and everybody could sit or move around with ease. The sound system, Lara said, was one of the best she had ever encountered during the workshops. Except for the 30-second incident when a little boy burst into the room, pulled down the phone and rushed out slamming the door behind him, the sessions went on with almost no disturbance.

Abrupt end

My fondness for Le Grandeur, however, ended abruptly with the second meal. I discovered that everybody felt the same way—though some tried to stretch the romance for one or two more meals efore giving up.

I thank my Davao friends for recommending Colasa's, which had excellent barbecue. The food was so good I didn't mind looking like an idiot asking for a knife and fork, nor did I mind washing my hands afterward with what appeared to be Mr. Clean Calamansi. Another good meal was at Nanay Bebeng's and I can still clearly see the buffet laid out in front of me. And, of course, Claude's where we had the staff dinner. I can't write about that particular meal, I can only applaud.

Memorable ceremony

On our third night there, we were graciously invited by artist Anna Fer to hold our poetry reading in her home. A few nights later we were off to Ponce Suites for Fellows' Night.

Now that was not the kind of place I expected to see in Davao... or anywhere for that matter. From the moment we entered Ponce Suites, no wall, table or countertop, or part of the ceiling could be seen. Every surface was covered with the paintings, sculptures, and words of the artist Kublai. This was the backdrop to which the 10 fellows exacted their revenge on the panel by spoofing them, rather creatively, following the format of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" Kudos to Alex de los Santos and the other fellows for getting that done.

The workshop officially came to a close at the Ladislawa Country Club with a farewell dinner and graduation ceremony hosted by businesswoman Myrna Valdez. The ceremony was also our chance to thank Lolly Lacuesta for helping with the workshop logistics and showing us around town.

It was a fitting end that our last evening in Davao was spent at Jack's Ridge overlooking the city. Ralph, Lara and I shared a plate of *sisig* while talking about almost everything but the

A JOURNAL/ p.D7

UST national writers workshop now accepting fellowship applications

THE UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies is accepting manuscripts to the 3rd UST National Writers Workshop to be held on April 24-29 in Baguio City.

The workshop will focus on poetry and fiction. It is open to budding writers who have not been awarded fellowships to any of the major national writers workshop (i.e. Dumaguete, UP, Iligan). An applicant should submit a hard copy of his/her manuscript and a virus-free diskette copy {MS Word 6.0 or 7.0}) containing at least five poems and/or two short stories, a resumé and 2x2 ID photo. Applicants should also submit a certification duly signed by the head or any credible authority of his or her institution that the articles that he or she has submitted are authentic and have not been copied from elsewhere. There are 15 fellowships available, 30 percent of which will be given to constituents of institutions affiliated with the Dominican network of schools. The deadline for submission is on March 15.

A panel of top-caliber writers and literature experts will screen the applications. Successful applicants will be granted fellowships that will cover board and lodging. To conduct the workshop are the Center's writing associates Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta, F. Sionil José, Cirilo F. Bautista, Rebecca T. Añonuevo, Michael Coroza, Lourd de Veyra, Jose Victor Torres and Ramil Digal Gulle, as well as guest writers.

Call Ferdie Lopez or Alma Manguilin at 731-3101 local 8281.

A journal on the UP Writers Workshop

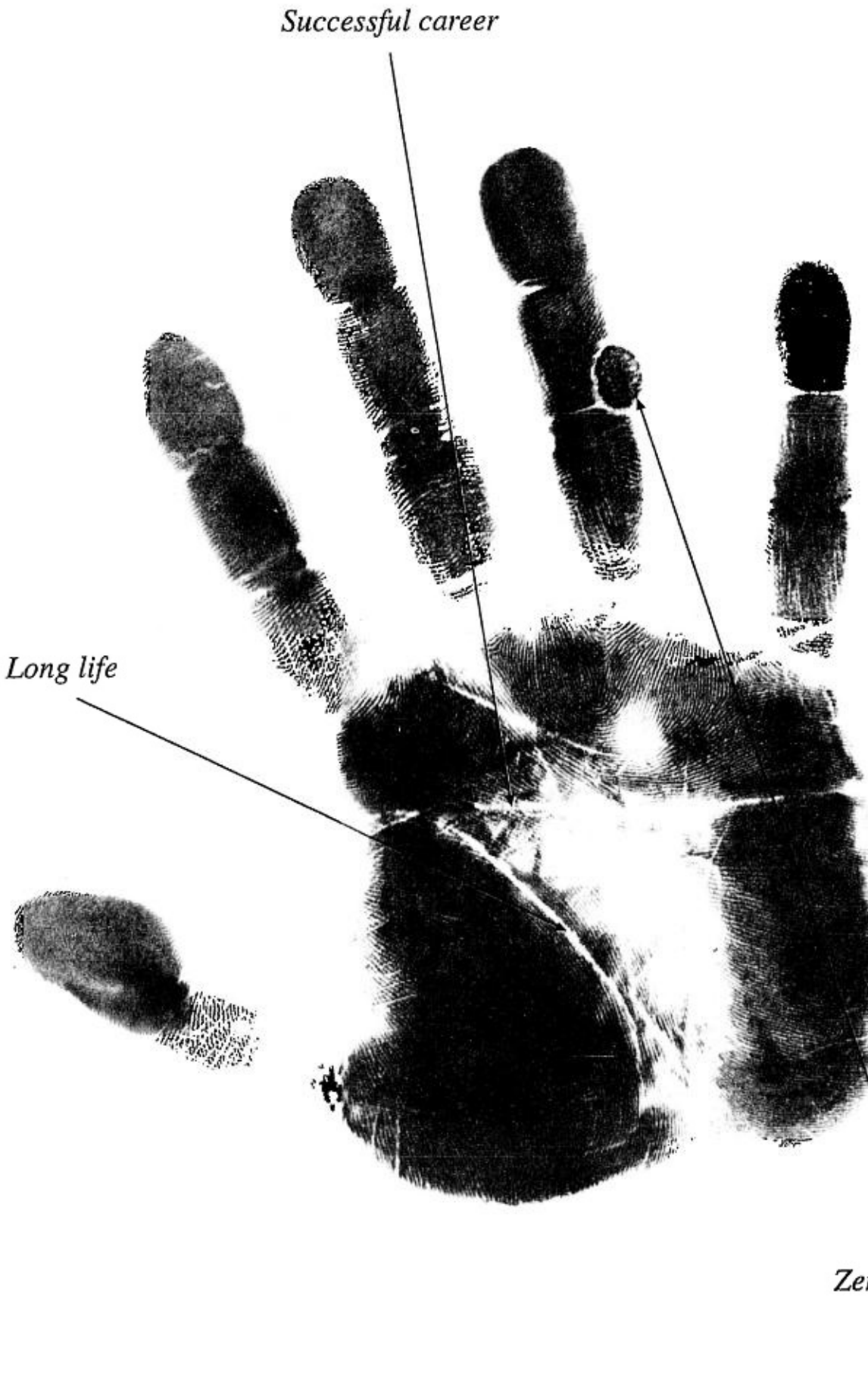
WRITING CLINIC. Duke Bagulaya, Karen Rivero, Gabriela Lee, Ramel Taculod, Pete Lacaba, Jimmy Abad and Cormarie Villojan

From page D6

workshop. It was a distance that was much needed to digest all that happened in the week that passed.

As a workshop rookie, I found the entire experience very enriching. Together with, or perhaps beyond, the places were the people. It was a privilege to interact with the workshop panelists: distinguished writers Gemino Abad, Pete Lacaba, Ricardo de Ungria, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Timothy Montes and Leoncio Deriada; an honor to meet respected writers Aida Rivera-Ford, Jaime An Lim and Alfred Yuson; fun to work with Ralph and Lara and get to know the fellows, Alex de los Santos (English fiction), Bevs Asenjo (Filipino fiction), Cormarie Villojan (Kiniray-a poetry), Karen Rivero (English poetry), Gabby Lee (English poetry), Michael Ligalig (Sugbuanon fiction), Duke Bagulaya (Waray poetry), Ramel Taculod (Sugbuanon poetry), Gem Lacort (English poetry), Daryll Delgado (Waray poetry and English fiction).

And though I am still in the process of digesting, part of me (and the workshop staff) is already thinking of summer. Here's looking forward to the 40th in Baguio.



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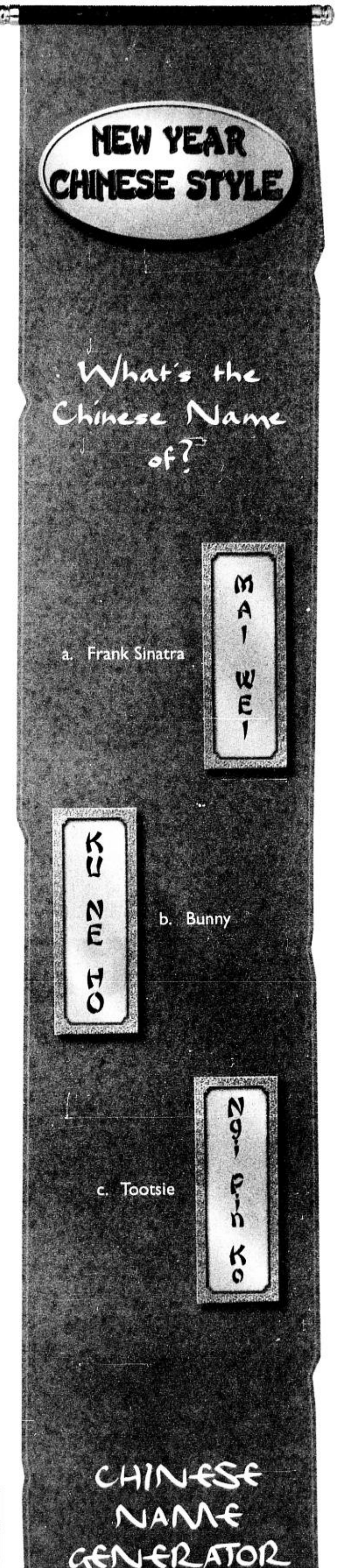

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LIFESTYLE

Artists do love

Arts & Design

How do I love thee? Let me draw the ways

By James Perez Ong
Contributor

WHAT is love for someone who enjoys a heightened sense of emotions? From the Holy Family to Freud, from gaping holes to bodies *en flagrante delicto,* eight artists show us their interpretation of that elusive muse—love.

HERMES ALEGRE

Background: Known for painting beautiful women surrounded by flowers or foliage. His exhibit last year, "Nymphs and Blooms," was well-received.

Busy with: Preparing for his next show, to be held abroad.

Love status: Happily married, with two kids.

What, for you, is love in 2002? It's being one in all plans, decisions, moves and, hopefully, even in disposition.

How does love show in your work "Eros"? The profiles of the kissing couple have been made to form a new single face. I used lines to depict the ideal union that I mentioned: It's about the merging of two separate people into one entity. Since red is generally thought to represent love, I used it as a solid base—showing the strong foundation of, again, the union. "Eros" is actually one of my favorite works.

LOVE IS UNION. Hermes Alegre's "Eros," oil on canvas

ROMEO R. FORBES

Background: Forbes, 20, has been making a name in art competitions since 1993—a total of 31 events is listed in his résumé. This year, he was a juror's choice in the PLDT Cover Design Art Competition, and a finalist in the Diwa ng Sining National Art Competition.

Busy with: "Harana," a joint exhibit with Yveese Belen on Feb. 16 at Gallery Nine in SM Megamall, sponsored by Petron, in whose art contest last year he won a major prize.

Love status: Single but attached.

What, for you, is love in 2002? Love, for me, is never saying goodbye, and not leaving despite the country's political and economic crises. These obstacles shouldn't make you love a person—or the nation—any less. For me, I don't see a difference between love in 2002 and love in the future. Love is love.

How does love show in your work "Dakong Alas Kuwatro (Around Four-O'Clock)"? My painting depicts a meeting place for lovers, a *tagpuan.* It also demonstrates what I think is an important component of love: patience. As you can see, the girl is waiting alone, and she looks as though she's been under the tree for a long time, waiting. She does this for love. Even if the wait could be exasperating for her, she does not use this as an excuse to abandon her love.

And in "Igigitara Ko (I Shall Play it on My Guitar)"? In this work, I'm simply saying I will play music for my love, and I will not stop short of anything to make her happy. I will do anything for my love, I will play music, give her the moon and the stars, etc.

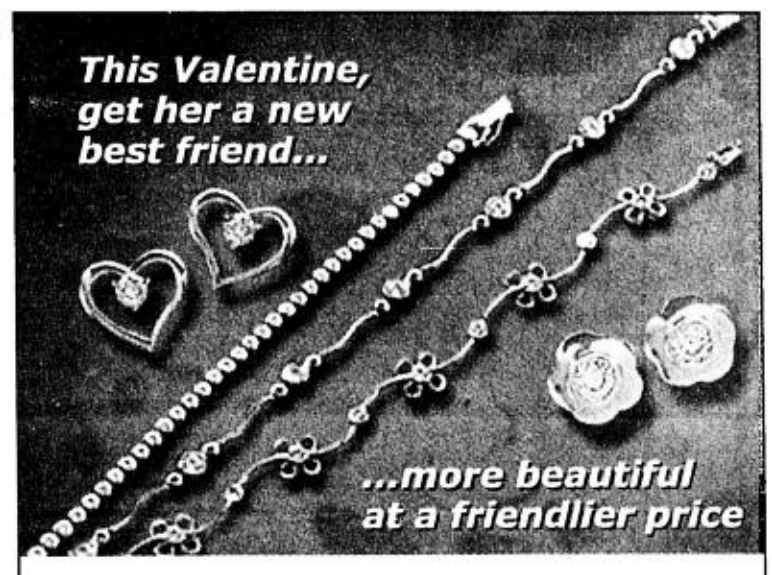
LOVE SHOWERS BELOVED WITH MUSIC, EVERYTHING. Romeo Forbes' "Igigitara Ko," oil on canvas

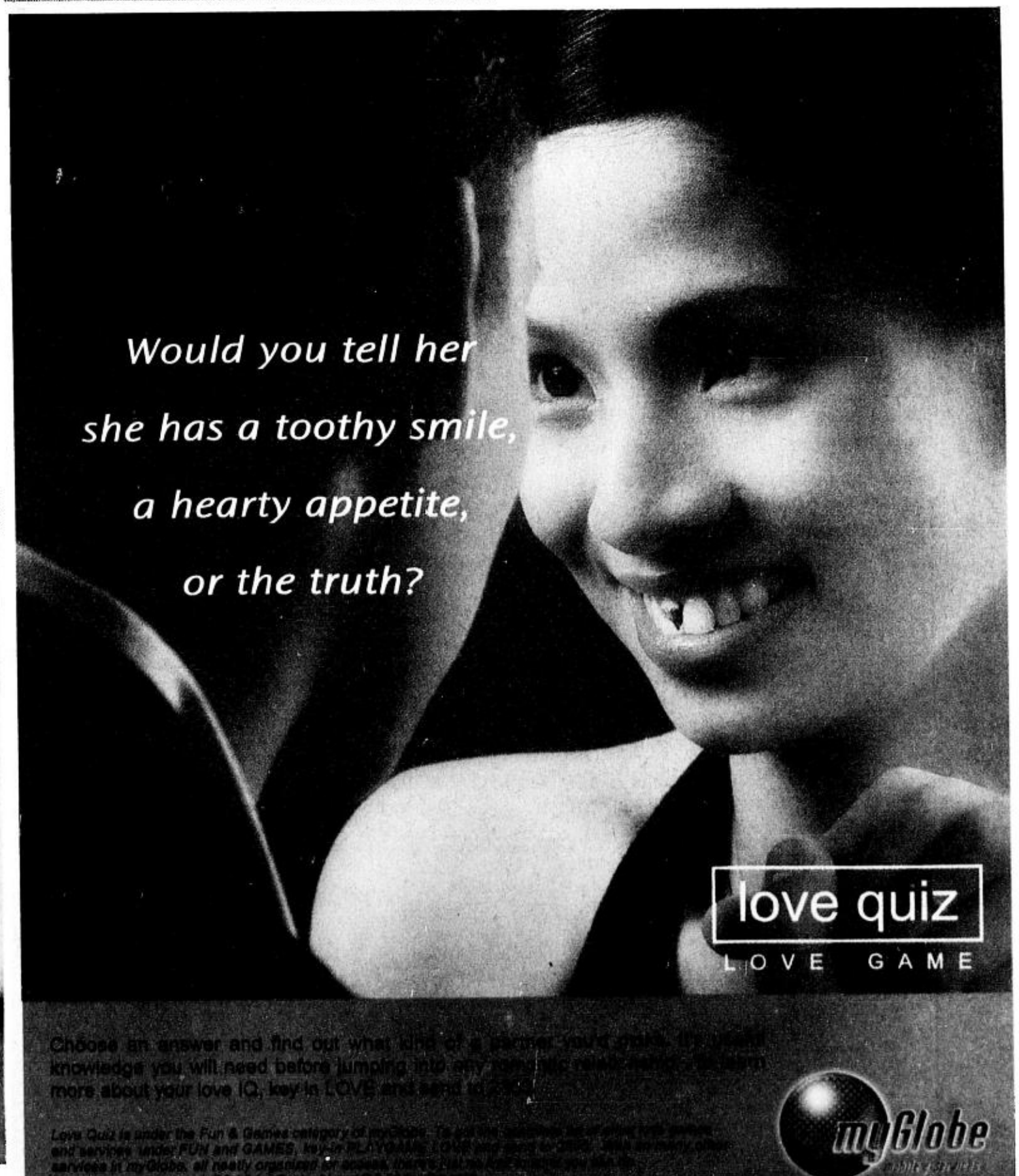
YVEESE BELEN

Background: Currently studying industrial design in UST's College of Fine Arts and Design.

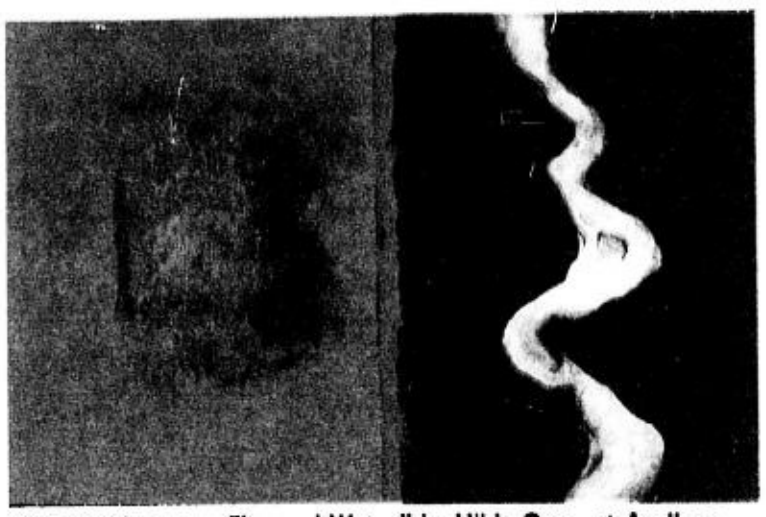
ARTIST/ p.E6

LOVE IS PATIENT. Romeo Forbes' "Dakong Alas Kuwatro," oil on paper





Orye at Avellana, Garcia at West, Logarta and Goloy at Discovery Suites



"BATTLE between Fire and Water" by Hilde Orye, at Avellana Gallery

VISUAL ARTS

BELGIAN artist Hilde Orye exhibits "And Then There Was Silence" at the Avellana Art Gallery (220 Fresno Road, Pasay City) until Feb. 28. Orye, who has been exhibiting in Manila since 1998, shows new works that express the effects of forces in collision and communion. She tries to achieve this through different media, from acrylic to plaster, handmade paper and varnish. Call 522-9793/94.

NUDES BY TAGLE. The Ivydell Gallery (G/F Gallery Building, Amorsolo Street, Legaspi, Makati) features the brown pastel nude paintings by positivism exponent and painter E.R. Tagle in its 2002 calendar. A book on Tagle's nude titled "The Human Body is God's Greatest Gift to Humanity" by poet Rolando Carbonell is being prepared by Ivydell for release this year. Tagle conducts art lessons on nude drawing and painting every Saturday. Call 816-0904 or (0917) 972-6223.

GARCIA AT WEST GALLERY. Nona Garcia, grand prize winner in the 2001 Asean Art Awards, presents her new oils in "Ambient Stills," on view at West Gallery, Art Walk, 4/L SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City, until Feb.19. Call 634-1284.

YOUNG ARTISTS AT GALLERY NINE. Gallery Nine presents "Harana," a joint exhibit of award-winning young artists Yveese J. Belen and Romeo Forbes Jr. on Feb. 16, 7 p.m. at 4/L SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit runs until Feb. 25. Call 687-7302.

LOGARTA AND GOLOY AT DISCOVERY SUITES. Former newspaperwomen Llita Torralba Logarta and Angelina G. Goloy hold "Doble Vista" on Feb. 18-22 at the Discovery Suites (25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig). Logarta will show her trademark flowers and landscapes in watercolor while Goloy will display her photographs of nature scenes. Guests of honor are Sen. Loren Legarda, Dr. Lourdes Talag-Echauz of the Centro Escolar University, Niles Perlas, Eugenia Apostol, Manuel Pangilinan, Reynaldo Alejandro and Discovery Suites general manager Jack Tuazon.

"STILL # 5," oil on canvas, by Nona Garcia, at West Gallery

MIRANG AT GALLERY GENESIS. Chris Mirang presents his third one-man show, "February Affair," a collection of more than 25 watercolor paintings featuring flowers as a symbol of love and life. The exhibit will run Feb. 12-25, at Gallery Genesis, 4/F SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. Call 633-8137/38.

SALVADOR AT THE DRAWING ROOM. Lirio Salvador, assemblage artist, holds his first one-man show at Tthe Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City, until Feb. 27. Featured are functional art pieces in the form of musical instruments such as the guitar, *sitar*, double bass and violin. Salvaged metal instruments in stainless steel and chrome are used to create interesting and arresting pieces perhaps never seen before in the local art scene. Salvador describes his art as "multidisciplinary," combining technology, sculpture, music and performance. Call 897-6990/7877.

RARALIO AT DE LA SALLE. De la Salle University-Manila Art Gallery features the works of painter-sculptor Dan Raralio in a self-titled exhibit until Feb. 26. Raralio's medium of choice is the fast-setting polymer-resin, shown in large-scale works from painting to sculpture. Among his interesting works is "Wet Dreams," a display of five chrome-plated faucet heads attached to a polymer pillow. It is a quintessential representation of the eternally irritating leaking faucet. Until March 31 at Aqua Restaurant (Tower 1 of the Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City). Call 886-5768.

MA AND MALIC AT GALLERY 139. Gallery 139 presents Wilson V. Ma and Jerome I. Malic in an exhibit showcasing paintings and sketches of horses done in various media. Witness the artistic renditions of horses in their natural form and movement or as accompaniment or symbol of child's play at Gallery 139, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City on Feb. 14-28.

DE LA ROSA AT GALLERY 828. Camille de la Rosa opens her latest exhibit, "Nature's Symphony," tomorrow, 6 p.m. at Gallery 828, 6/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City. The exhibit runs until Feb. 21. Call 637-5795 to -96.

CUYSON AT GALLERIA DUEMILA. Jon Cuyson holds his seventh solo exhibit featuring four large acrylic paintings on canvas having cool monochromatic colors with abstracted geometric forms and eight small works of collage on paper with similar theme. On view at Galleria Duemila, Inc., 4/F SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City until Feb. 15. Call 831-9990 or 833-9815 or 633-6687 (telefax).

GROUP EXHIBIT AT ST. LUKE'S. St. Luke's Medical Center and Sagip-Bayan Foundation Inc. hold an art exhibit, "Artists for Health III," Feb. 20-22, at the 2/F Conference Room of the Medical Center's Main Building in Quezon City. Participating artists include Gus Albor, Ang Kiukok, Angelito Antonio, Antonio Austria, Tam Austria, Manuel Baldemor, Norma Belleza, Elmer Borlongan, Angel Cacnio, Dante Castillo, Cris Cruz, Danny Dalena, Edgar Doctor, Tessie Sarmiento-Duldulao, Romulo Galicano, Emmanuel Garibay, Agustin Goy, Lamarroza, Arturo Luz, Malang, Marcel, Edsel Moscoso, Romulo Olazo, Ramon Orlina, Bernard Pacquing, Mario Parial, Ephraim Samson, Sansó and Soler. Call 727-5400, 724-7275 and 723-1073.

CRUZ AT MAC. The Madrigal Art Center (Com-

ORYE/ p.E3

NUDE by E.R. Tagle, at Ivydell

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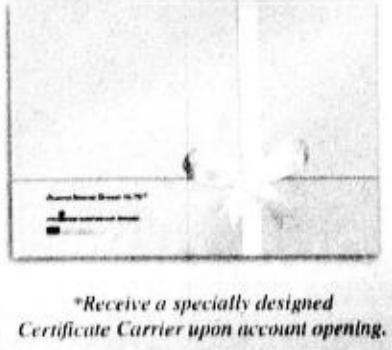

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ART TART

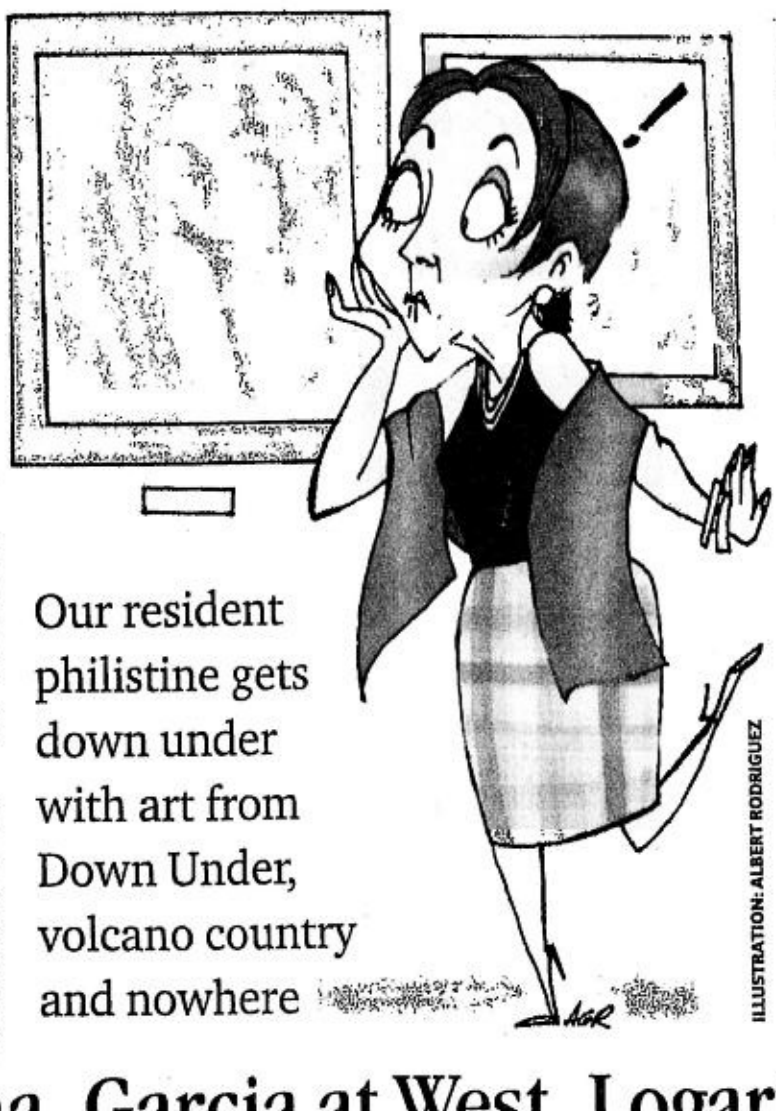
Psst, 'mekeni'! But where's the lahar?

ONE OF the many, many things that break my heart is the sight of a lonely *lamesita*, without as much as an heirloom *manton* to cover it, or a ceramic pearlized white elephant on top.

And so, armed with a sadness that could rival the emotions felt by an AAP consolation prize winner, **Art Tart** almost dragged herself to the opening of an exhibit at the Heritage Gallery, located in that place young people nowadays call "G4"—as if it were some boy band.

An *amiga* told me, very excitedly, that the artist was from Angeles, but what did I see? Paintings! And more paintings! And so colorful! Red! Blue! Green! Yellow! But where was the gray? Where were the little *biiks* made from Pinatubo ash? Or the little jeepneys made from *lahar*? This was definitely not a Pistang Pilipino moment. An artist from Angeles and no *lahar*! "I want *la-ar*!" I told one of **Odette Alcantara**'s beautiful sons, sobbing on his chest. "I want *la-ar*!"

The one piece that left me stunned—for a moment I couldn't move a finger (maybe just my arthritis)—was **Doña Margarita**. Picture this: a fashionable geriatric, dressed in her Sunday *matrona*'s best, complete with beaded trinkets, a Spanish fan and filtered cigarette. Fabulous, right? Well, except for one tiny detail: her ugly feet. They reminded me of my old *muchacha*, she with the stubby



Our resident philistine gets down under with art from Down Under, volcano country and nowhere

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

virgin toes that have died without ever knowing how it is to have your cuticle removed. I miss her. She wanted to become a lady guard. Something about reinventing herself, apparently.

Having pacified my hysteria, the Son Of Odette offered me a glass of sangria with bits of floating singkamas and led me to the buffet table. *Madre mia*! Quiche pizza. *Atay* wrapped in bacon. Paté on tasty! An artist from Angeles and no *sisig* on the table? Whatever happened to looking back to your roots? Or your *lamang-loob*, for that matter!

Daphne Oseña, the TV host, then came to my rescue. It was her second ribbon-cutting for the month, and she told me she was getting pretty good at it. "Daph," I said, my hand clutching my pashmina to my sallowing chest, "*Sabyan mo kaku, nanung mengyari keni*?" She just stared at me. And then said that while the artist was originally from Angeles, he's been based in Australia for quite some time now. "*Wa*," I told her, "*tindehan da ka*."

After finishing my third *nilagang itlog*, I looked around and wondered vaguely, where, oh, where... will I put down my plate! There were no tables! Proof that you really can't put a cheap china plate down. Right there and then I had an epiphany: If there are no *lamesitas*, then there will be no more—lonely *lamesitas*.

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DEALERS ARE WELCOME

Orye at Avellana, Garcia at West, Logarta . . .

From page E2

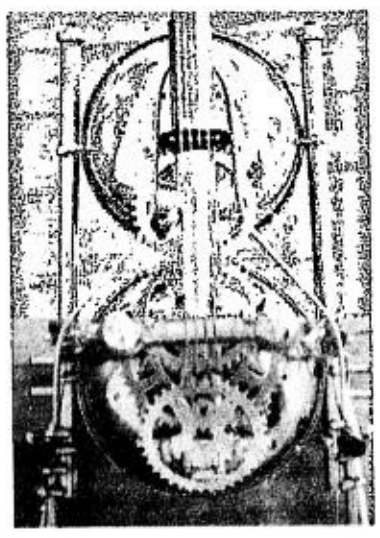
merce Avenue, Ayala Alabang), behind the St. Jerome Church, near the Alabang Town Center brings fantasy art to Alabang through "Pinoy Spawn: Alagad ni Josh" by Jojo Cruz. The exhibit runs Feb. 12-March 23. Call 842-0127.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT THE ART CENTER. Abstractionists Gus Albor, Roberto Robles and Tony Twigg hold an exhibit at the Art Center, 4/F SM Magamall A, Mandaluyong City. Dubbed "Silent Talking," it is a demonstration of the depth and wealth of exchanges among three acclaimed artists. The show runs until Feb. 24. It will also be viewed at the Australia Centre Feb.26-March 15, and brought to Sydney, Australia, in October. Call 634-3261 or 831-9990, telefax 833-9815 or 633-6687.

DELGADO AT FINALE GALLERY. Twenty-two-year-old Monica Laurel Delgado, a painting major at the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts in Diliman, uses as the subject matter of her first one-woman show antiques like the typewriter, the rotary telephone and the phonograph. The show, titled "Links," is ongoing at Finale Art Gallery until Feb. 24.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT DE LA SALLE. De la Salle University-Dasmariñas will unveil the exhibit, "Beginnings," which features seascapes, landscapes, portraits and sketches by budding La Sallian artists Angelo Aguinaldo, Frederick Agustin and Orlando Oliveros. Their artworks showcase the growth of artists. The exhibit will be on view at the Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo main gallery until Feb. 28.

MARTINEZ AT PENINSULA. Jun Martinez, one of the country's top watercolor artists, will be featured in the "Likha" art exhibit sponsored by the Intellectual Property Foundation, which aims to promote the protection of intellectual property rights of Filipino artists. The innocence of children is the main theme of his paintings. Joining him are Angel and



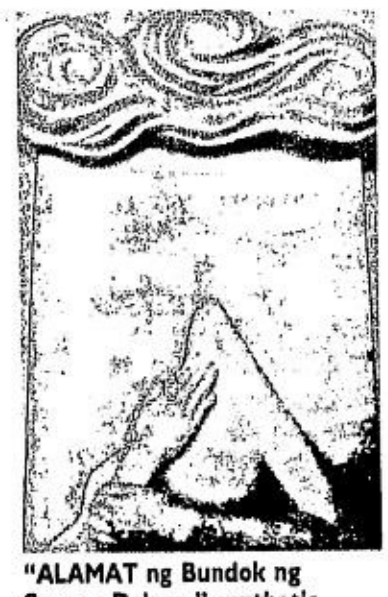
"STAINLESS," mixed media, by Lirio Salvador, at the Drawing Room

Michael Cacnio, Elber Gernale and Vicente Ido Larosa. Exhibit runs Feb. 26-27 at The Gallery, Peninsula Manila, Makati City.

WORKSHOP. Faber-Castell is holding workshops at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. Workshops and performances on "Art Expressions on Musical Impressions" are scheduled on Feb. 23. A session focusing on "Seascape" will be facilitated by Fernando Sena, while the lecture and musical performances will be conducted by Wed Lodriga of St. Scholastica's College. Faber-Castell will also hold workshops for public school elementary art teachers on Feb.18 -19, at the Quezon City Hall. Call 361-7391-92.

WORKSHOP. Visiting German artist Neeltje Bollen is conducting her art workshop series in Manila, with the last leg to be held in New Manila, Quezon City, Feb.22-24. Call 279-7869 (Diwa), 721-8677 (Ryan) or 931-9270 (Vicky).

LECTURE. The Alcove Photo Gallery presents a lecture on "Travel Documentary: A New Approach" by Lester Ledesma, 1:30 p.m., Feb. 23, at the Reading Room, Filipinas Heritage Library. The two-hour lecture aims to help participants get started



"ALAMAT ng Bundok ng Susong Dalaga," synthetic marble and brass, by Dan Rarallo, at DLSU Gallery

and make the most of a trip. A wide array of topics will be discussed—from researching the trip, choice of equipment and supplies, airport X-ray machines, the best places to go to when making a business out of travel photography. Call 892-1801.

SERIES ON WRITERS AT ROCKWELL. The Lopez Museum will hold "The Filipino Woman Writer: Why She Writes What She Writes in English," a lecture by Edna Manlapaz, on Feb 27, 12-2 p.m. Manlapaz will provide commentary on selected works by poets such as Angela Manalang Gloria, Tita Lacambra Ayala, Benilda Santos. Manlapaz is executive director of the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings. The Lopez Memorial Museum luncheon-lecture will be held at Fernando's Restaurant in Rockwell Club (Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati). Call Fanny San Pedro at 631-2417 or 449-2355.

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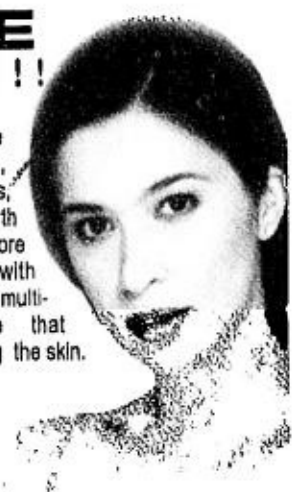

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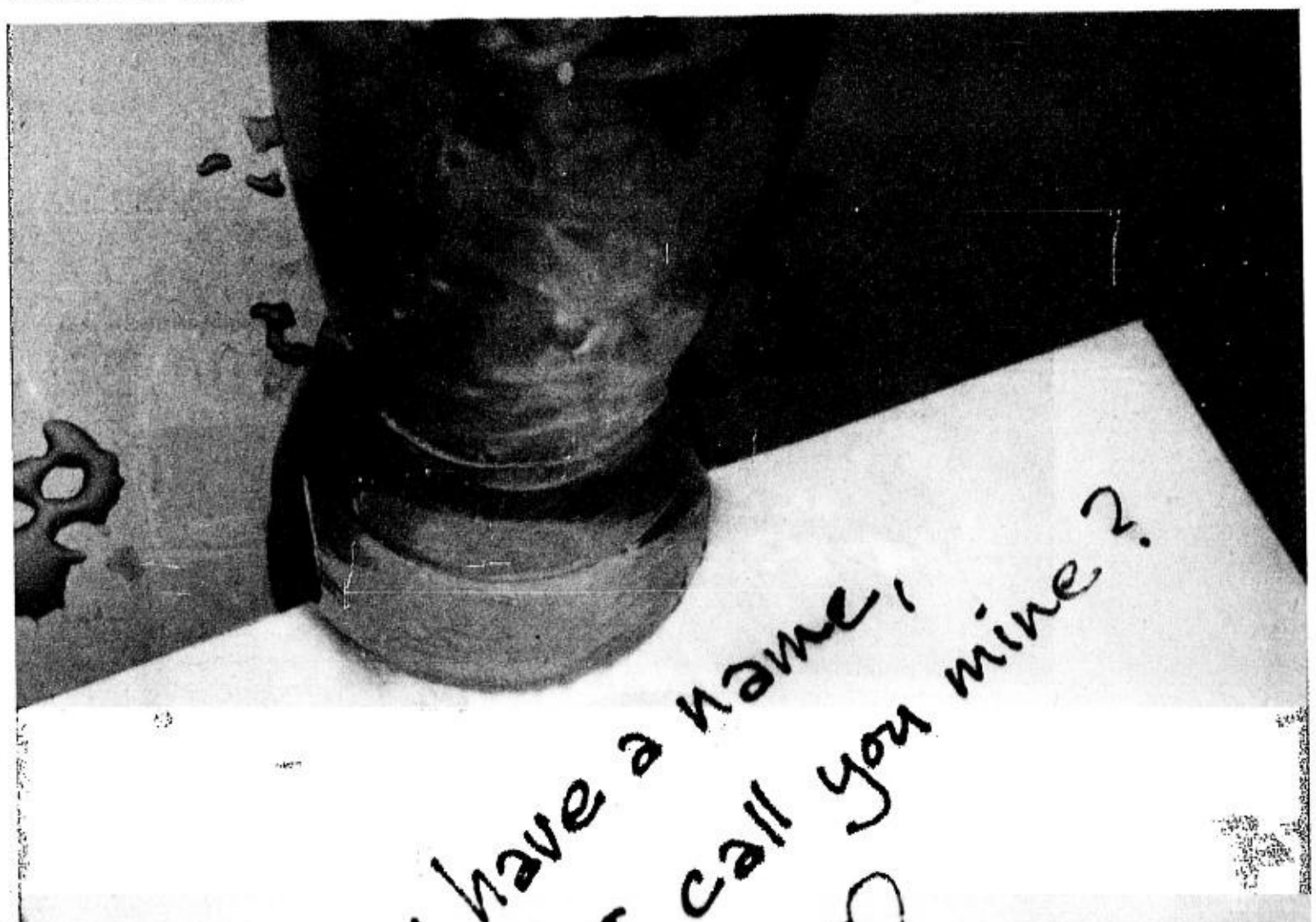
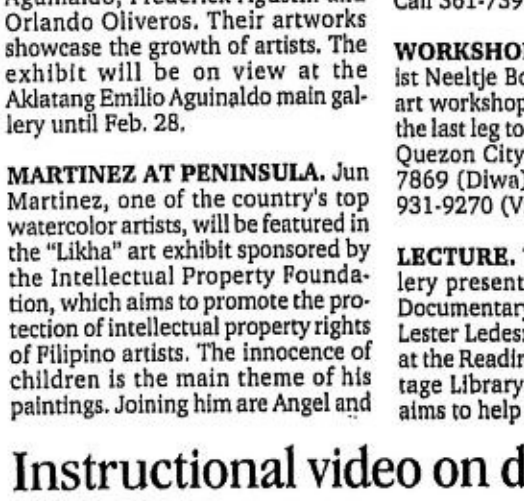


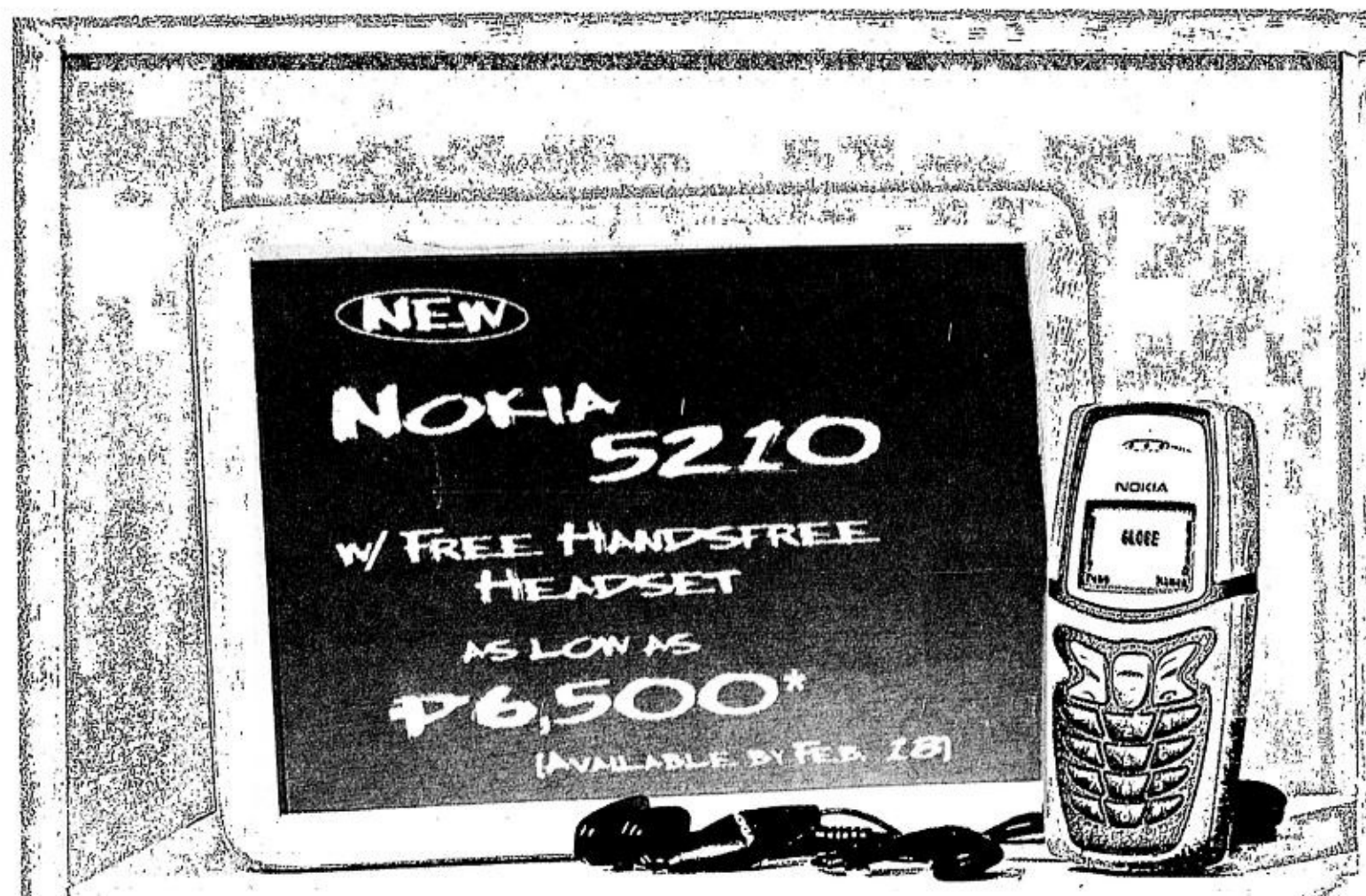
Instructional video on decorative glass painting now out

ARTLIFE Enterprises has released its second instructional video, "Decorative Painting on Glass Made Easy with Victor Bella," available in VHS. The video was produced by Victor Bella, author of "Decorative Candles Made Easy with Victor Bella."

The new video provides fast and easy step-by-step techniques such as outlining, painting, embellishing and dripping. It shows fresh and new approaches on combining transparent glass paints, gold-relief paints and exotic jewels to create beautiful and stunning effects. Bella, a painter and craftsman honed by the Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts, Holland, demonstrates the making of a glass bowl, perfume bottle, stripe glass, butterfly jar and starburst jigger.



Bella instructional videos are registered with USA copyright, all rights reserved worldwide. The videos are available at 30 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati, with tel. 890-3778 or (0917) 757-6690. Also available at Stitches N Things (SM Megamall) and selected National Bookstore branches.



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Artists do love

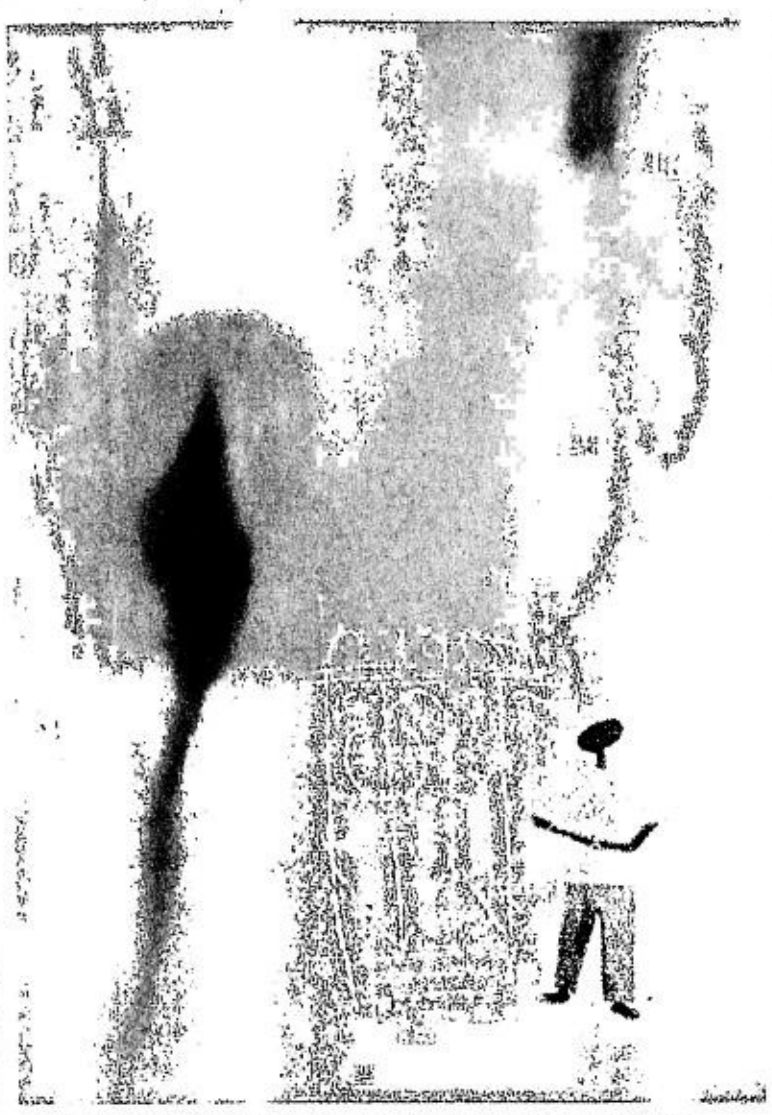
From page E1

Busy with: "Harana," a joint exhibit with Romeo Forbes on Feb. 16 at Gallery Nine in SM Megamall, and sponsored by Petron, in whose art contest last year she won a major prize.

Love status: Single but attached.

What, for you, is love in 2002? Love, for me, is a form of adornment. When someone is in love with you, that person sees you as the most beautiful woman, whether or not it's true. In this way, love is like the wonderful accessory that brightens up an otherwise simple dress. And because you are regarded as some exquisite creature, your disposition is sunnier.

How does love show in your work "Araw ng Dalaw (Day of Visit)"? In this piece, adornment comes in the form of *lakas ng loob* on the man's part. Because he is in love, he is willing to risk rejection. I don't know if other artists will agree with me, but because I use watercolor as my medium I find it easier to show what I feel with the waves of colors I choose. In this work, I use red to signify romance and, also, a feeling of uncertainty. Notice how fully it seems to flow. The black shadow on the left, which looks like a tree trunk outside the gate, represents a spear into the heart (symbolized by the red head of a tree). That could mean either heartbreak or *lakas-tama*. The scratching I used on the gate implies it is a temporary, even if daunting, barrier. Like lace, it covers, but you can still see through it. Together with the bright yellow, it signifies hope, anticipation and perhaps, elation. I guess this is where the sunnier disposition I was talking about earlier comes in.



LOVE AS ADORNMENT. Yveese Belen's "Araw ng Dalaw," watercolor on paper

THE EPITOME OF LOVE. Edsel Moscoso's "Sagrada Familia," acrylic on board

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

TRES ROMAN

Background: Roman was a medical student at De La Salle University until he decided to chuck everything and concentrate on his art. He has never joined formal art competitions but, at 31, recently held his first exhibit.

Busy with: Preparing for next show, as he just finished "Square One" at Gallery Nine in Makati.

Love status: Married, with a son.

What, for you, is love in 2002? Whether in solitude (being far apart) or in union, it must be unconditional. You may have great expectations, but whatever the outcome it's all about accepting and nurturing."

How does love show in your work "Freud's Fantasy"? The colors I use, along with the texture, represent different or varied romantic moods, modes and situations. A certain color represents unbridled passion, another depicts oneness, and so on. The lined texturing means mutuality, the flecks stand for little tiffs and the other textures show little perks, enjoyment, etc. The reds may mean angry fighting or rapturous trysts. My use of monochromes is an expression of how the emotions peak and then ebb from time to time. The way the lines and figures seem to merge into one another, without a beginning or an end, is, for me, the ultimate depiction of unconditionality.

LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL. Tres Roman's "Freud's Fantasy," acrylic on canvas

EDSEL MOSCOSO

Background: Majored in painting at the UP College of Fine Arts (Batch 1974) and studied in Rome, on scholarship, from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Holds a doctorate in Christian Iconography from the Pontificio Instituto di Archelogia Cristiana (Batch 1985).

Busy with: Working on a cultural resort in Antique, which would be open to artists.

Love status: Single and "in love with the whole world!"

What, for you, is love in 2002? Love is an all-consuming attention to the evolving process of self-realization of a sensitive person who accepts in stride all that life can offer; thereby realizing that it is only when one has reached mastery of one's self that he can totally love the whole world with total abandon.

How does love show in your work "Sagrada Familia (Sacred Family)"? "The Holy Family," to me, is the epitome of love that is transcendent and all-encompassing—a timeless and universal communion of souls bound together by a unity of spirit and purpose.

LOVE AS CONSUMMATION. Sam Penaso's "Nang Makamit ang Labis," acrylic on canvas

SAM PENASO

Background: Studied fine arts at the Technological University of the Philippines and has been a finalist in the 2001 Philip Morris' Philippines Art Awards, and the Metrobank Young Painters' Annual National Painting Competition.

Busy with: "Artrese sa 101," a group exhibit of 13 artists now running at Gallery 101 (2/F Kaimo Building on Quezon Avenue).

Love status: Single.

What, for you, is love in 2002? Love is what makes us survive, given the world's current state—2002, 2003, 2004? The importance of love is actually timeless—it gives us hope to see things through to 2005, 2006 and so on. It doesn't distinguish between rich and poor; love is for everyone.

How does love show in your work "Nang Makamit

ARTIST/ p.E7

LOVE IS NUMERICAL. Egai Fernandez's "Buhol," pencil on paper

Artists do love

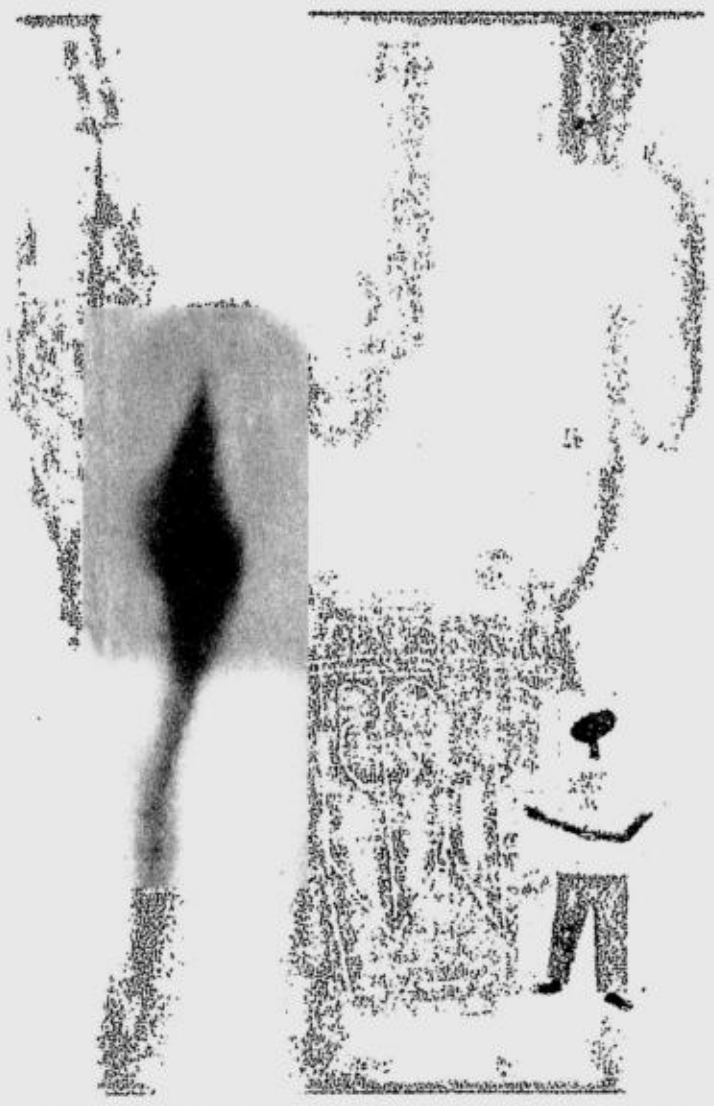
From page E1

Busy with: "Harana," a joint exhibit with Romeo Forbes on Feb. 16 at Gallery Nine in SM Megamall, and sponsored by Petron, in whose art contest last year she won a major prize.

Love status: Single but attached.

What, for you, is love in 2002? Love, for me, is a form of adornment. When someone is in love with you, that person sees you as the most beautiful woman, whether or not it's true. In this way, love is like the wonderful accessory that brightens up an otherwise simple dress. And because you are regarded as some exquisite creature, your disposition is sunnier.

How does love show in your work "Araw ng Dalaw (Day of Visit)"? In this piece, adornment comes in the form of *lakas ng loob* on the man's part. Because he is in love, he is willing to risk rejection. I don't know if other artists will agree with me, but because I use watercolor as my medium I find it easier to show what I feel with the waves of colors I choose. In this work, I use red to signify romance and, also, a feeling of uncertainty. Notice how fully it seems to flow. The black shadow on the left, which looks like a tree trunk outside the gate, represents a spear into the heart (symbolized by the red head of a tree). That could mean either heartbreak or *lakas-tama*. The scratching I used on the gate implies it is a temporary, even if daunting, barrier. Like lace, it covers, but you can still see through it. Together with the bright yellow, it signifies hope, anticipation and perhaps, elation. I guess this is where the sunnier disposition I was talking about earlier comes in.



LOVE AS ADORNMENT. Yveese Belen's "Araw ng Dalaw," watercolor on paper

THE EPITOME OF LOVE. Edsel Moscoso's "Sagrada Familia," acrylic on board

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

TRES ROMAN

Background: Roman was a medical student at De La Salle University until he decided to chuck everything and concentrate on his art. He has never joined formal art competitions but, at 31, recently held his first exhibit.

Busy with: Preparing for next show, as he just finished "Square One" at Gallery Nine in Makati.

Love status: Married, with a son.

What, for you, is love in 2002? Whether in solitude (being far apart) or in union, it must be unconditional. You may have great expectations, but whatever the outcome it's all about accepting and nurturing."

How does love show in your work "Freud's Fantasy"? The colors I use, along with the texture, represent different or varied romantic moods, modes and situations. A certain color represents unbridled passion, another depicts oneness, and so on. The lined texturing means mutuality, the flecks stand for little tiffs and the other textures show little perks, enjoyment, etc. The reds may mean angry fighting or rapturous trysts. My use of monochromes is an expression of how the emotions peak and then ebb from time to time. The way the lines and figures seem to merge into one another, without a beginning or an end, is, for me, the ultimate depiction of unconditionality.

LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL. Tres Roman's "Freud's Fantasy," acrylic on canvas

EDSEL MOSCOSO

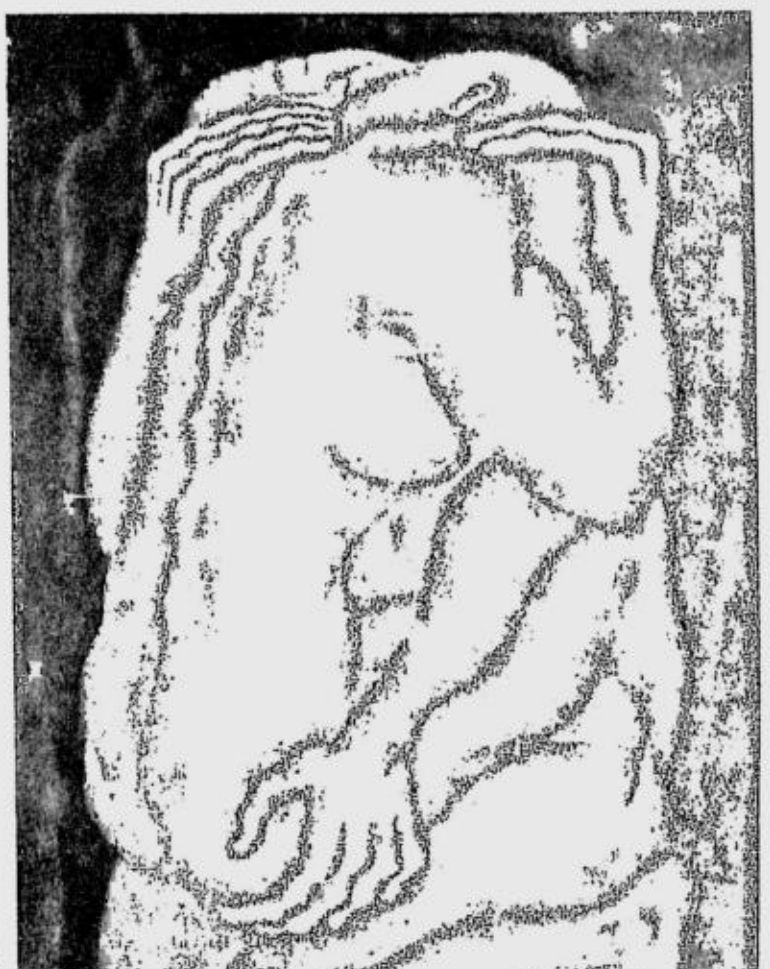
Background: Majored in painting at the UP College of Fine Arts (Batch 1974) and studied in Rome, on scholarship, from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Holds a doctorate in Christian Iconography from the Pontificio Instituto di Archelogia Cristiana (Batch 1985).

Busy with: Working on a cultural resort in Antique, which would be open to artists.

Love status: Single and "in love with the whole world!"

What, for you, is love in 2002? Love is an all-consuming attention to the evolving process of self-realization of a sensitive person who accepts in stride all that life can offer; thereby realizing that it is only when one has reached mastery of one's self that he can totally love the whole world with total abandon.

How does love show in your work "Sagrada Familia (Sacred Family)"? "The Holy Family," to me, is the epitome of love that is transcendent and all-encompassing—a timeless and universal communion of souls bound together by a unity of spirit and purpose.



LOVE AS CONSUMMATION. Sam Penaso's "Nang Makamit ang Labis," acrylic on canvas

SAM PENASO

Background: Studied fine arts at the Technological University of the Philippines and has been a finalist in the 2001 Philip Morris' Philippines Art Awards, and the Metrobank Young Painters' Annual National Painting Competition.

Busy with: "Artrese sa 101," a group exhibit of 13 artists now running at Gallery 101 (2/F Kaimo Building on Quezon Avenue).

Love status: Single.

What, for you, is love in 2002? Love is what makes us survive, given the world's current state—2002, 2003, 2004? The importance of love is actually timeless—it gives us hope to see things through to 2005, 2006 and so on. It doesn't distinguish between rich and poor; love is for everyone.

How does love show in your work "Nang Makamit

ARTIST/ p.E7

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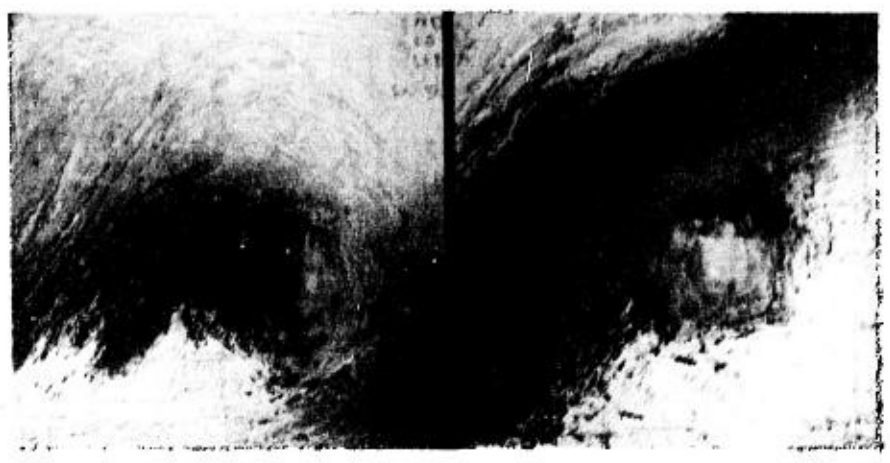
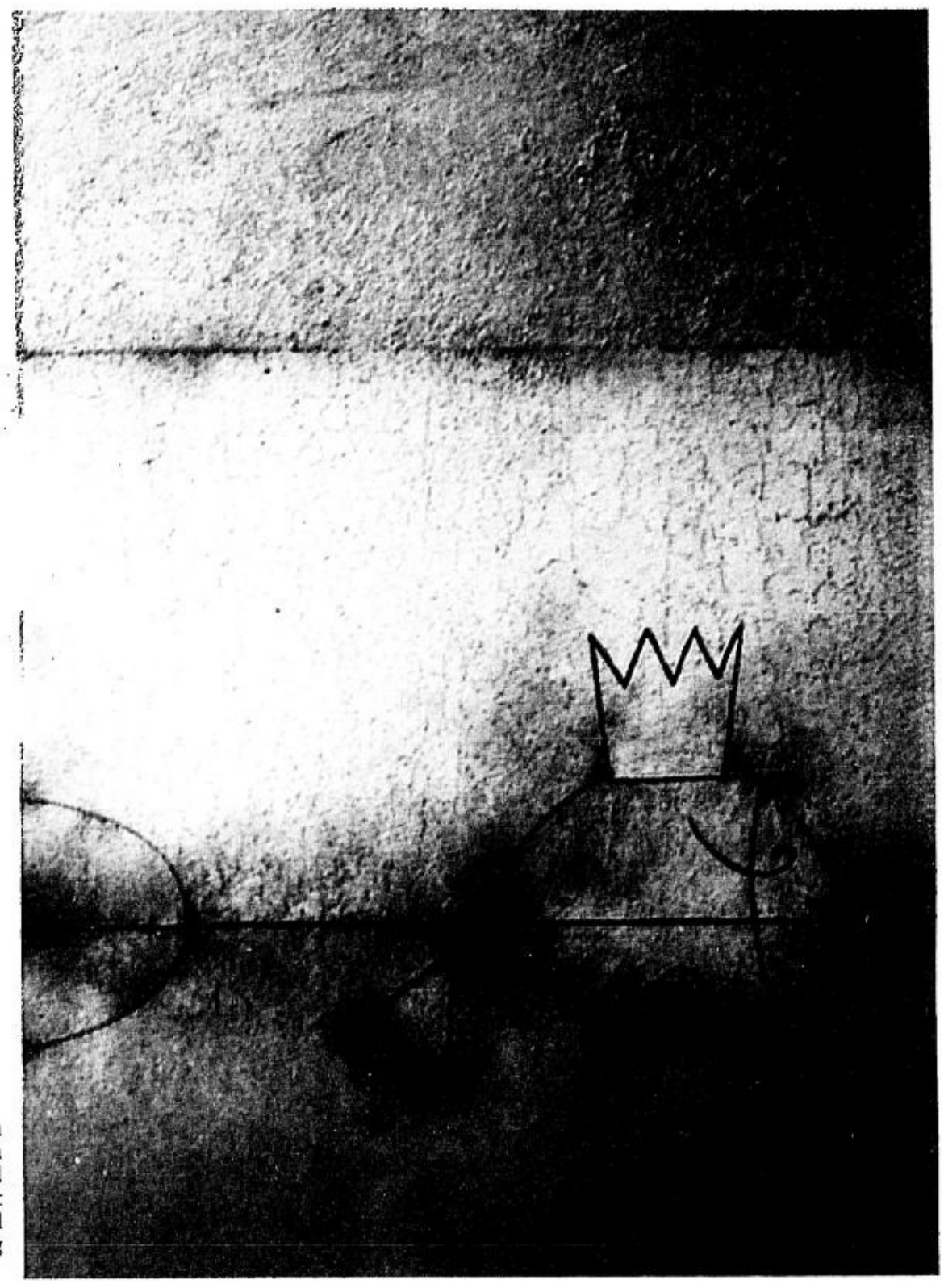
LOVE IS NUMERICAL. Egal Fernandez's "Buhol," pencil on paper

BUEN Calubayan's "Heartaches for Two"



EDDIE Ocampo's "Heart and Soul"

JAIME Pacena's "The Strait of My Dream on Vanity"



Multimedia Valentine's exhibit and performances at UST Museum

BONDSMAN'S Key, a contemporary artists group composed of Advertising Arts alumni from the University of Santo Tomas College of Fine Arts and Design (Edrie Myrick Ocampo, Jaime Jesus Pacena II and Buen Calubayan), will hold "Bondman's Key—First Stanza" starting Feb. 14 at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences. The show is a multimedia exhibition on the complexity of love, featuring poetry, graphic arts, paintings, drawings and music videos. Curated by Prof. Jocelyn Dare Tullao, the exhibit is sponsored by mix_media_inc.

There will be presentations on opening night, which include acoustic performances by the exhibiting artists and poetry reading by award-winning writing associates of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies, such as Rebecca Añonuevo, Michael Coroza, Ramil Gulle and Lourd de Veyra. The serenade starts at 6 p.m. at the Main Exhibition Hall of the UST Museum (mezzanine, UST Main Building, UST, Calle España, Manila).

The UST Museum is open from Tuesdays to Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Artists do love

From page E6

ang Labis (Ultimate Consummation)"? Through symbols, elements, colors and texture. With the figures I use, whether they are thin, bald or bent, you can still see what they feel. You will probably see a bit of depression (perhaps because of the social status they symbolize), but you can still see they have compassion and passion.

EDGAR "EGAI" TALUSAN FERNANDEZ

Background: Took up art studies at the College of Music and Fine Arts of the Philippine Women's University.

Busy with: Restoring his third Beetle (Volkswagen) and reorganizing his library, as he has just recently held an exhibit at Hiraya Gallery.

Love status: Alive.

What, for you, is love in 2002? It's numerical, one plus one equals two; two individuals become one, the union between two people.

How does love show in your work "Buhol (Entangled)"? It's very visual, some may even find it graphic (especially the narrow-minded). But if you really look deeper, you will simply see love consummated. Actually, if you look at sex in a very philosophical way, you'll see throes of passionate love... beauty in union. In this piece, you will be able to truly tell yourself that if love exists between two beings, then *two shall become one* indeed."

ROLDAN VENTURA

Background: Just got back from Thailand where he represented the Philippines in the Nokia International Art Competition and received an honorable mention.

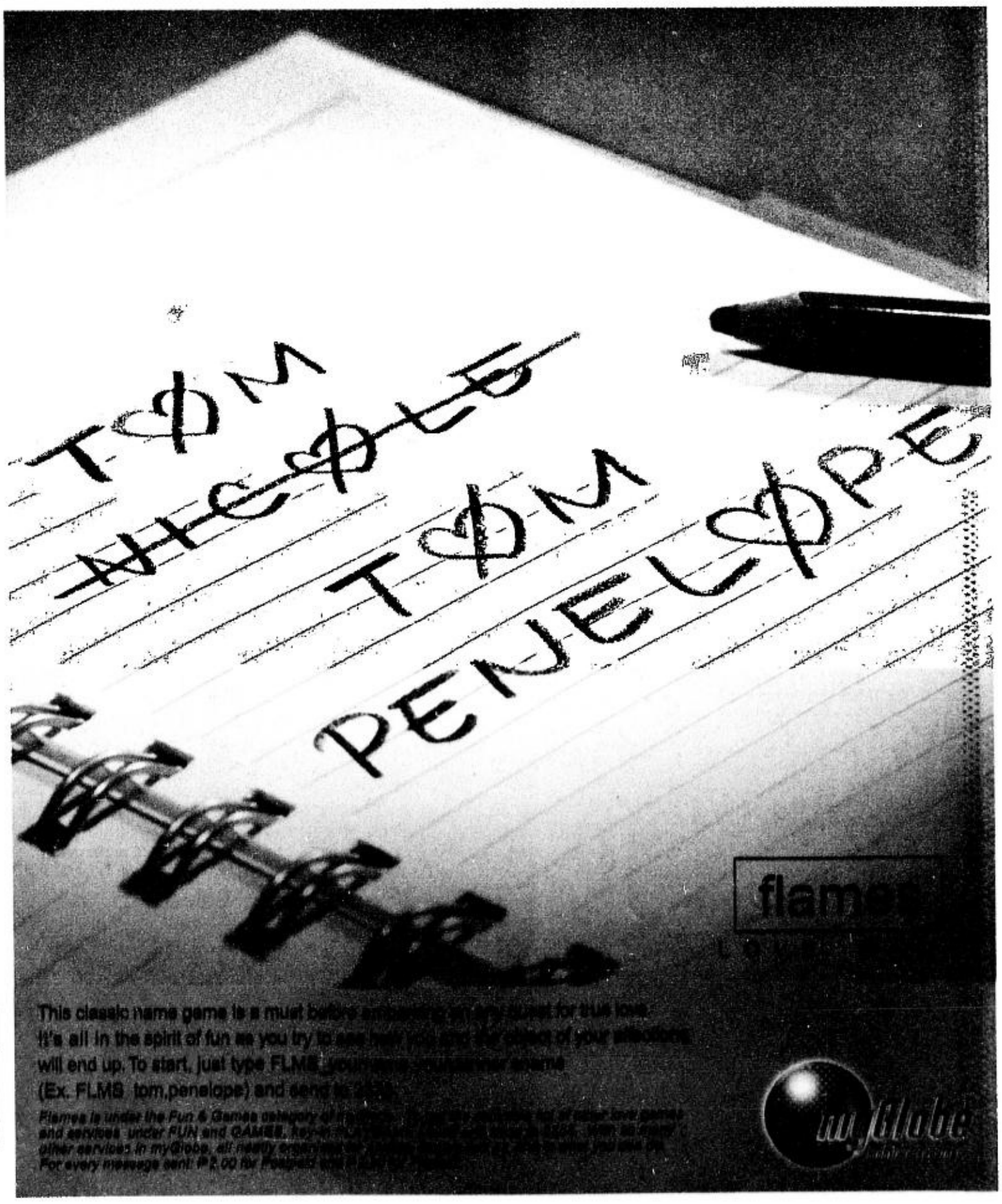
Busy with: Studies at the University of the East and preparing for his next exhibit.

Love status: Married.

What, for you, is love in 2002? It's about giving a part of yourself no matter how painful or difficult it may be. It's about giving without expecting anything in return.

How does love show in your work "From the Core"? My painting is rather self-explanatory, a literal rendition of what love means to me. As you can see, a gaping hole shows a heart about to fall out. The hand is poised to take it out and give it away. That's what love is all about: giving despite excruciating pain.

LOVE IS GIVING DESPITE THE PAIN. Roldan Ventura's "From the Core," mixed media



Portrait of a woman in the form of boobs

"MILKY Hills"

By Constantino C. Tejero

BOOBS blaze. This we found out when we went recently to the Big & Small Art Co. holding the exhibit "Bodyscapes," 12 pieces in acrylic on canvas by Emma Navarro, ongoing until Feb. 13.

This is a daring show, an in-your-face celebration of the female breasts, butt, curves, held in a new art gallery already noticed for holding eye-grabbing shows. (Since its opening last November at SM Megamall, the place has been showcasing daring works by young artists, a succession of nudes and genitalia galore.)

"I'm fascinated by beautiful women," Navarro says. "I think the female nude is the most beautiful thing you can see on earth. Someone asked me why I always depict this subject, insinuating I might be a... you know—but, please, I'm 100-percent woman."

Through the plate-glass walls of the gallery, the show is announced by the color red.

"I am so attracted to strong colors, primary colors—I don't know why," says the artist. "Between two paintings hanging on the wall, I would always admire the one with the bright colors. I started with pastel, but then I ended up covering them with bright colors."

Despite this hue and the occasional gold, orange and pink, however, there is a general oppressiveness about the exhibit. And there is a second paradox, too: The titles and imagery have a levity somewhat inconsistent with the bold brushstrokes and the strong solid colors.

In "Boobscape," the canvas is crammed with multiple boobs in orange and red, looking like ripening fruits.

"Butty Language" shows flame-red butts outlined in violet and green, the shapes looking like sperm cells swimming against a black background.

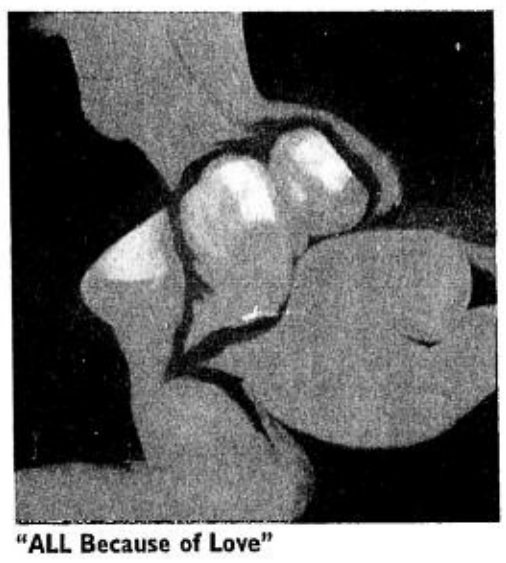
"Gemini" has the flame-red curves of two female bodies outlined in ink-blue and black.

"Bosom Bodies," is, well, just that—three profiles of nude female forms with heaving bosoms, in green, brown and red.

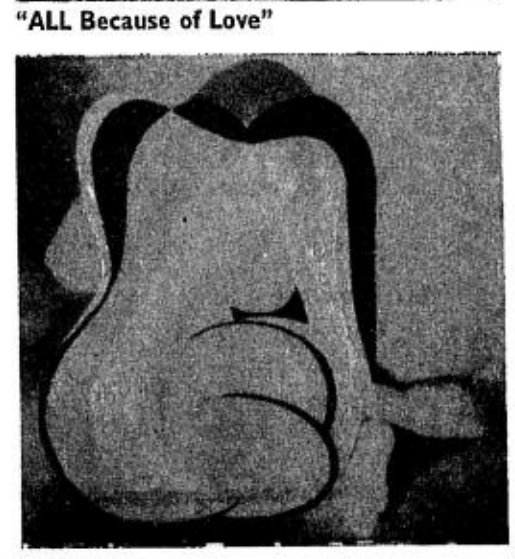
Strong influence

"The Offering" is the torso of a woman upthrusting her breasts under diaphanous fabric, in three angles, frontal and sideways, on three panels of red, green and blue, against backgrounds of brown, black and darker blue, respectively.

"THE OFFERING"



"ALL Because of Love"



"GEMINI"

"A Game of Chests" has a checkerboard of black and white with red boobs as pawns.

In "Milky Hills," against a vaporous landscape of ochre, white and blue done the impressionist way, stand numerous reddish hills looking like boobs aflame. Or a blend of Smoky Mountain and the Chocolate Hills.

Somewhat coy and conventional is "The Emptiness in Me," showing the curves of the back of a woman in a languid sitting position, outlined in red and green.

"A Touch of Love" is a repeat of the curvaceous image but more defined against a reddish and pink background, with a foot's sole in burnt orange.

The series of images descends to desolation with "All Because of Love"—gold boobs, orange boobs, red profiles of boobs, and what looks like a fetus exposed in a womb cut open, the whole imagery looking like a huddle of *barong-barong* set on fire.

"Beauty Boxed" is somewhat a departure, as it has faded shades of pink, green, violet, gray, red, with the figures done the cubist way.

"Boobs in the Bush" is a dark forest of viridian and indigo with blood-red patches which could be flowers but on closer look are profiles of breasts. Though most of the pieces in the exhibit approach abstraction, this one is the most abstracted, therefore, closer to the style of the artist's late husband, National Artist Jerry Elizalde Navarro.

The artist acknowledges as much. "That's why I avoid doing abstracts because Jerry's work will come out. You can see his strong influence in that painting—the forms, the strong colors."

Late-bloomer

In fact, she signs her artworks just "Emma N." so as not to ride on her husband's fame, which she can hardly avoid, anyway. Most confounding of all, she had stopped her art-making long ago to subsume it to her husband's.

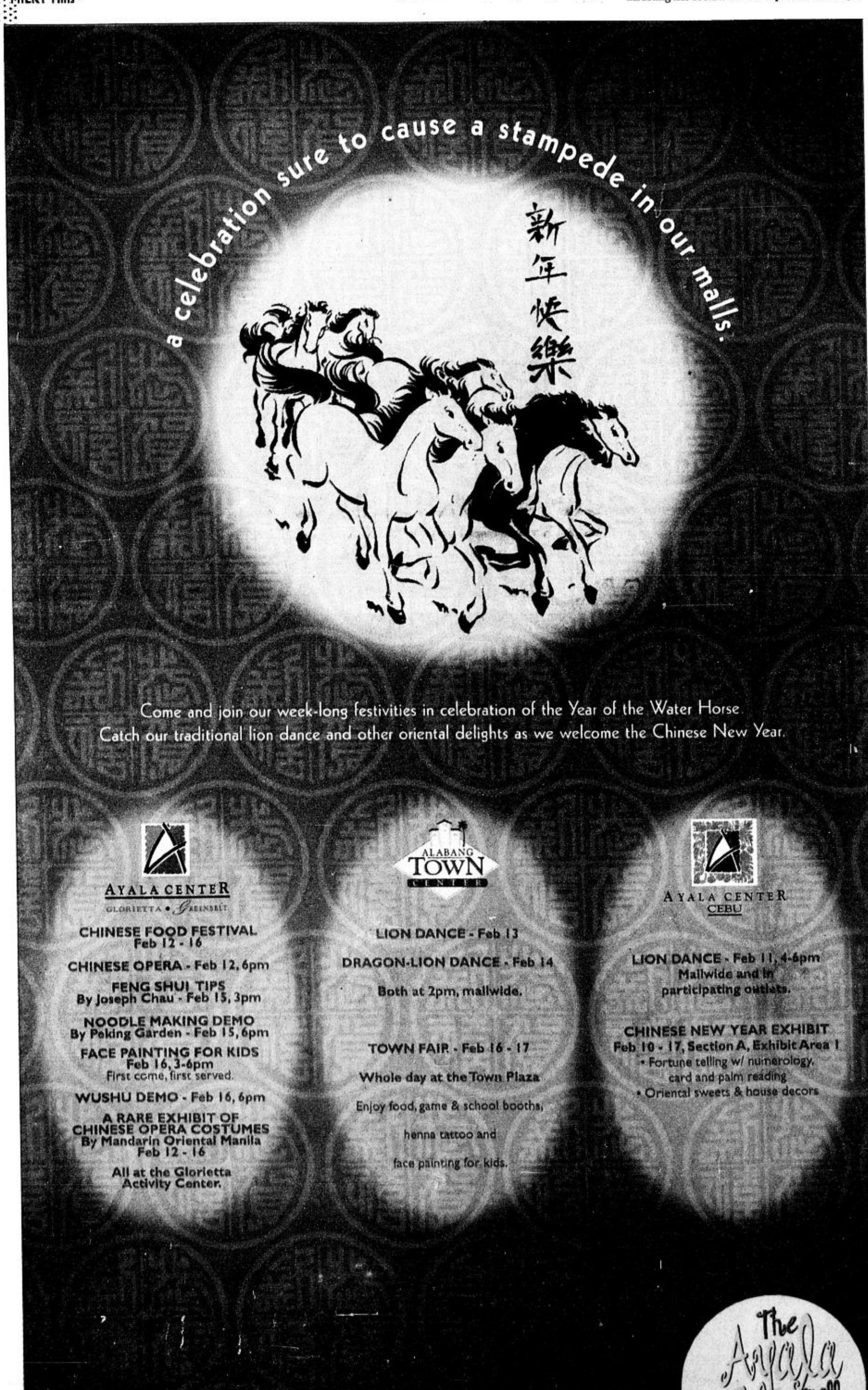
"Painting has always been in my heart," she can say now. "It's always there. But I could only paint when Jerry was abroad. He was critical of my work. I hid them from him. I was intimidated. Oh, yes, he would encourage me, but only halfheartedly. It's hard to compete when you're married to a great painter, which I believe he is."

A fine arts graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, she never came out with her works until her husband's death in 1999. That's why she's a late-bloomer in the art scene. "Bodyscape" is only her second exhibit, after the woman-and-drapery watercolor show last year.

As if to make up for lost time, she's coming up with her third show in June, this time of watercolor and acrylic, and, again, of nudes. She says she's just finishing off the supply of painting materials her husband left behind.

If in her first exhibit she defined with delicacy the sensuousness and sensuality of woman by draping the female body, in "Bodyscape" the unleashing of butts and boobs is a stroke that could constitute an act of defiance. She is, indeed, making some kind of statement with this exhibit.

"That I'm here," Emma N. says poignantly yet firmly. "That I'm trying to make noise. To make a name for myself."



LIFESTYLE

FILIPINO ensemble performs "Vengo."

'Bravo! Zarzuela' is 'halo-halo' of the best of Spain and the Philippines

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja describes himself modestly as "a diplomat who likes writing." A closer look though, shows a life steeped in the literature, drama and arts. His native Spain, Europe and the United States have witnessed many of the plays this essayist and author has written and directed. His "Gypsy Passion," presented at the Plymouth Theater in Broadway, won Best Foreign Author in the City of New York Awards of 1992.

Only 11 months in his post in the Philippines, he has created "Bravo! Zarzuela," a music-and-dance presentation combining a cast of Spanish and Filipino dancers and singers, a chorus via the Philippine Normal University Chorale and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. Originally staged for European TV, the musicale is a collaboration between the governments of Spain and the Philippines and is implemented by the Embassy of Spain and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

According to the ambassador, it was the remarkable musical and theatrical abilities of the Filipino artists that persuaded him to do the musical. Productions such as Repertory Philippines' "The Secret Garden" and Atlantis' "Rent" encouraged him to create a joint project involving Pinoy talent instead of just importing the entire cast and crew from Spain.

"I did see a lot of theater here," he recounts. "The talent in music and dance in particular is unbelievable! Look at 'Secret Garden.' Compared to the show I saw in Broadway, it had very poor lights and terrible sound—but the performances were excellent." He also found the cast members' rendition in "Rent" Manila more powerful than their US counterparts doing the original version in New York.

The choice of *zarzuela* for this project was obvious. "I had wanted to show two different communities and two different peoples coinciding in one culture. The *zarzuela*, which has elements common to our two countries, is very familiar to the Filipino audience." Without any libretto, "Bravo! Zarzuela" promises to be a celebration of music and dance, with traditional Spanish dances showing spectacularly the simple but jubilant life of countryside Spain.

"This is pure entertainment," the ambassador says, then adds that the production may contain a special message for these troubled times. "But we also appeal to the deep feelings of the people. We want to show that, with a

'BRAVO/ P.F6

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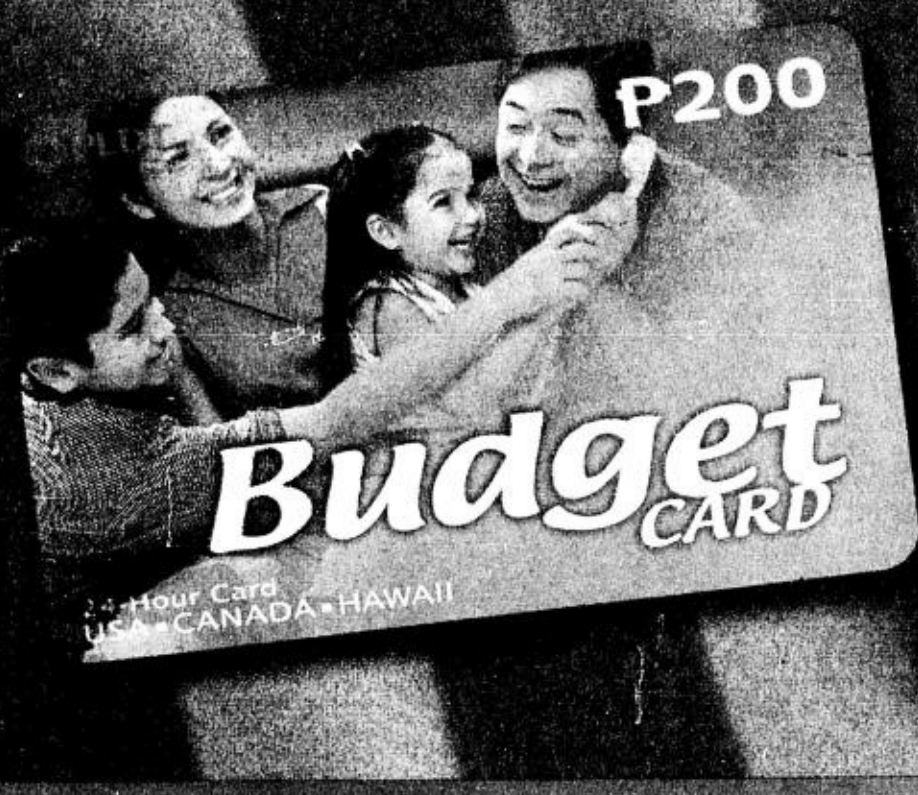

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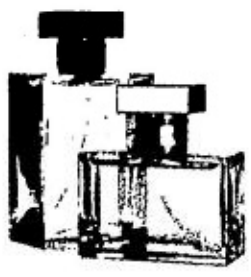
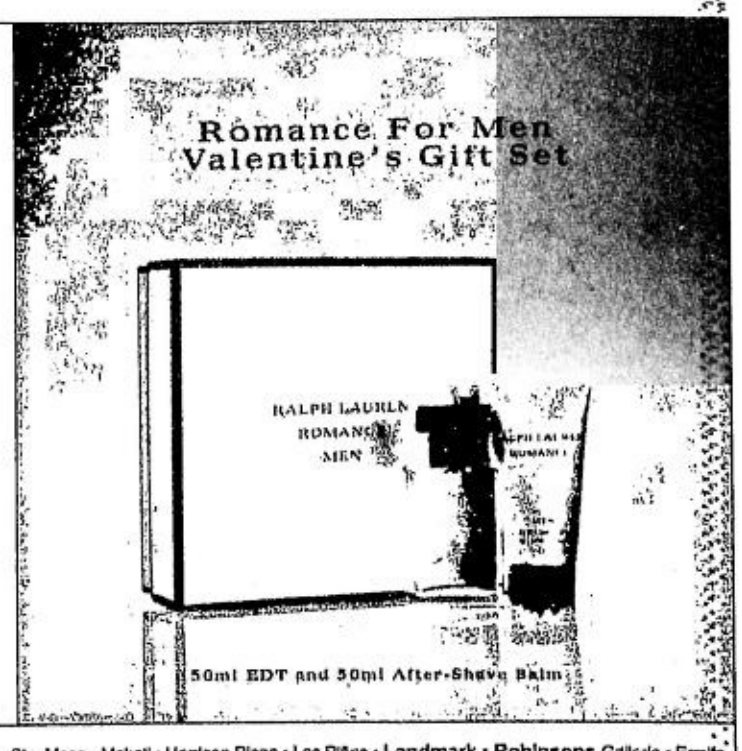


ONLY THREE DAYS TILL VALENTINE'S DAY



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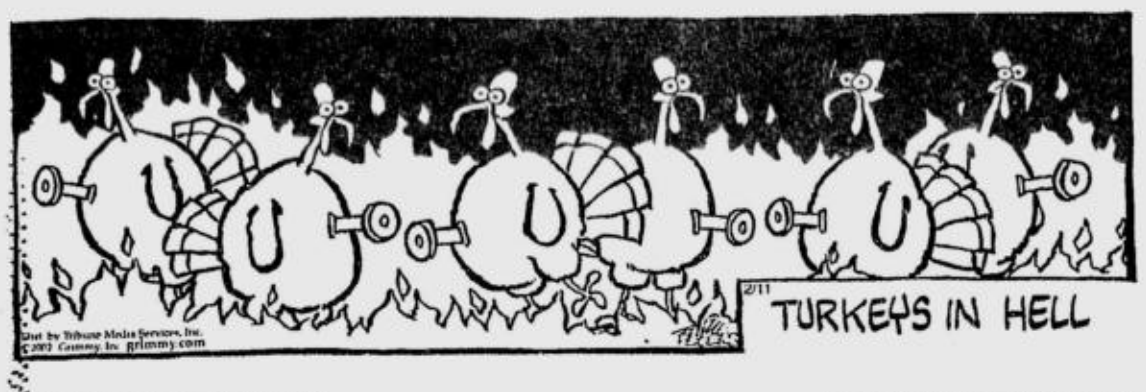
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



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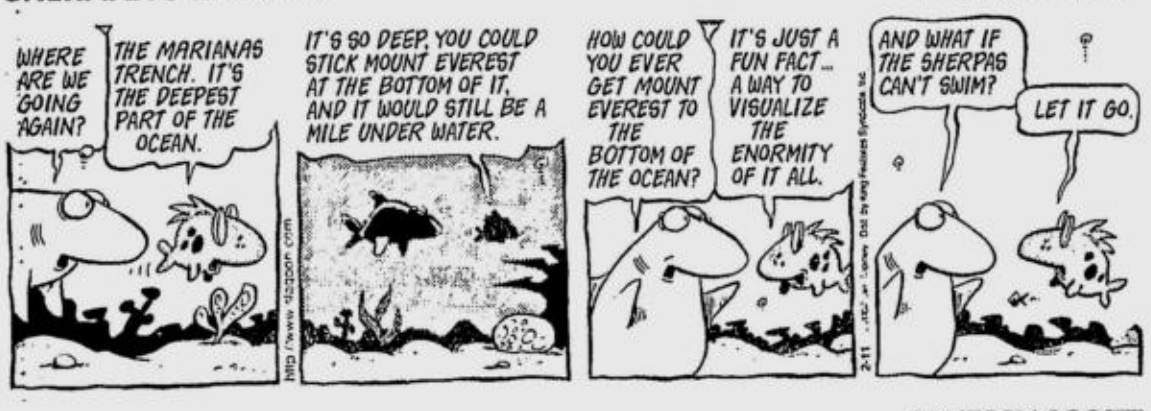

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES

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GARAPATA BLOOD

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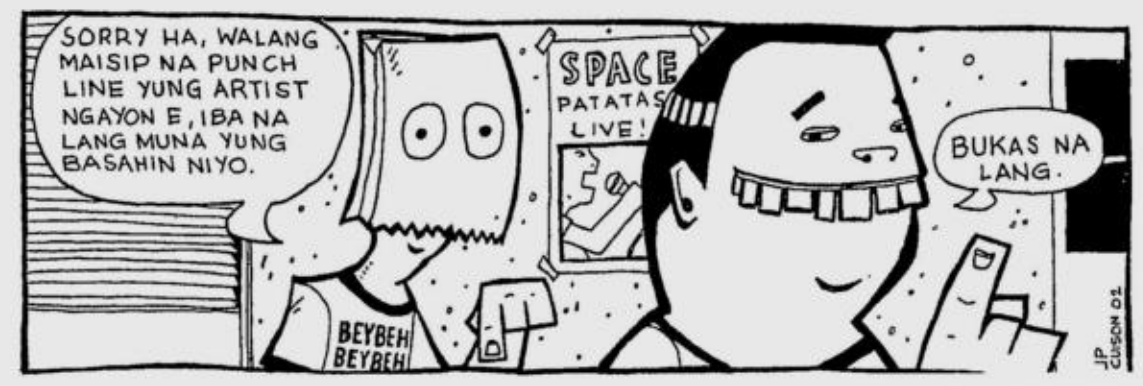
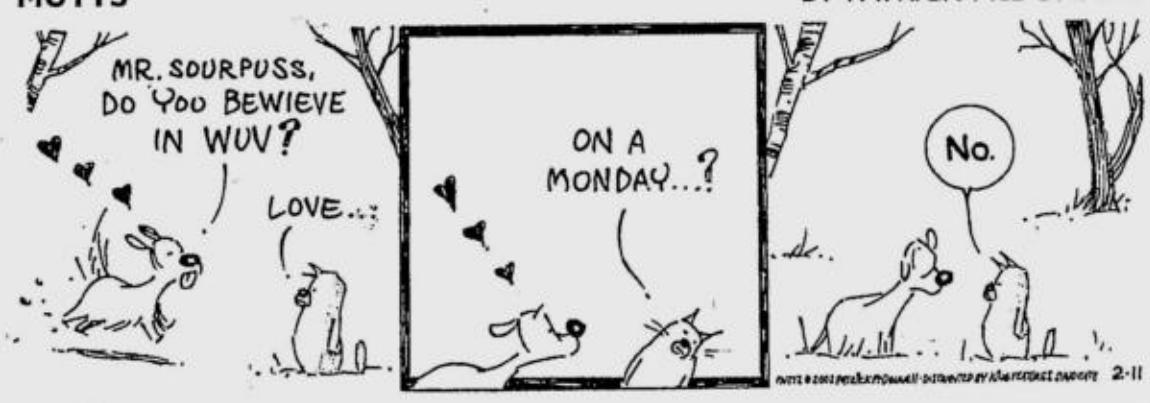


BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

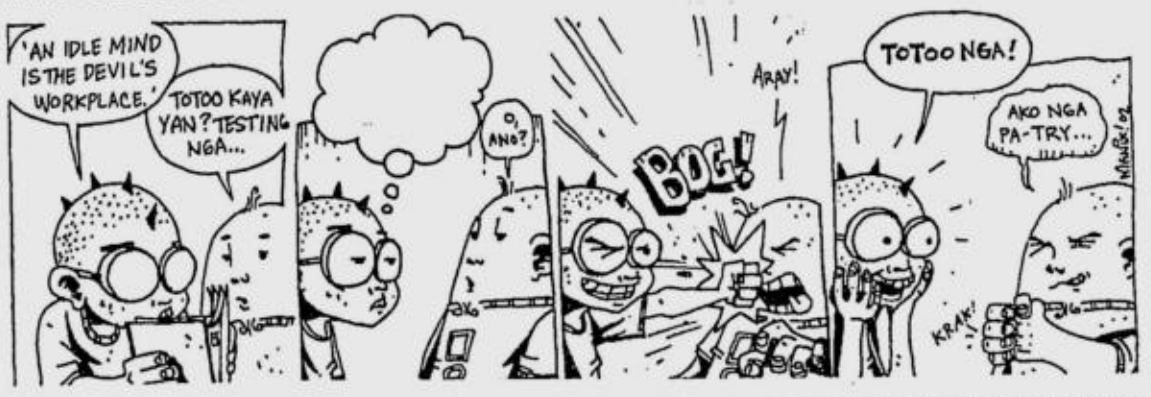
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sidney Sheldon, Burt Reynolds, Jennifer Aniston, Sheryl Crow
Happy Birthday: Get involved in groups and organizations this year that respond to causes you believe in. You will experience greater responsibilities involving institutions and large corporations. It is best to work behind the scenes where you will achieve the most. Your numbers are 19, 23, 25, 31, 34, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): There is no obstacle that you can't handle if you believe in yourself. Please yourself first and don't worry about what others think.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be daunted by life's little setbacks. Take your time and let things unfold. Limitations due to a lack of open communication are apparent so try hard to be honest and direct.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Let your creative talents rise to the surface. You'll accomplish the most if you travel for business purposes. Your communication skills will help you achieve your goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be careful not to take on more than you can handle today. Someone may try to burden you with all sorts of problems that really don't concern you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You are going through all sorts of changes. Don't make hasty decisions regarding your relationships. Bide your time and wait until you have a clearer assessment of your situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Use your creative talents to make your job more interesting. Your ability to work with fine but important detail will be admired and rewarded.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be in a very good position today. You can have whatever you want if you use your intellectual charm. Your passionate mood will be well received by someone who interests you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't be alarmed by the changes taking place at home. Know in your heart that the end result will be to your advantage. Acceptance is the key to moving forward positively.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider planning your next vacation. It will lift your spirits and give you something to look forward to. It's time to talk to someone who may be able to shed some light on your future direction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen to the advice given by respected friends. Someone is likely to lead you into a new professional direction that will be stimulating and make you money.

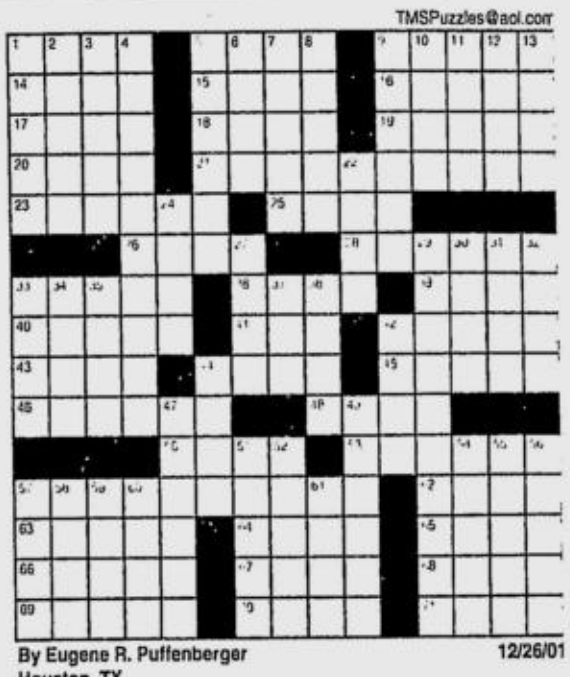
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can expect to have someone from your past on your mind. Don't hesitate to track him or her down. The connection should be much better this time. Be prepared to compromise and make changes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Opportunities to socialize with people from different backgrounds will spark all sorts of new ideas. You should try to create some of the innovative ideas you have been mulling over in your mind.

Birthday Baby: You are a generous friend and companion. You enjoy sharing all that you know and all that you have with those you befriend. Your warmth and generosity will lead you into many interesting partnerships.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

12/26/01

ACROSS
1 Barbed spear
5 __ mater
9 Quantities of wood
14 Earthenware pot
15 Fleece
16 Creative movement of the '60s
17 Stravinsky or Sikorsky
18 Pisa's river
19 Taylor of "The Nanny"
20 Writer/director Ephron
21 Reunion attendees
23 Sneak peek
25 Robust
26 Finished
28 Indian colonialists
33 Neutral vowel sound
36 Choir voice
39 As to
40 Pigtail
41 Bishopric
42 Samantha of "The Collector"
43 "__ Lang Syne"
44 Automatic tournament advances
45 Storage box
46 Shooting star
48 Greek portico
50 Astronomer Martin
53 Invalidates
57 Present time
62 Whiskey shot
63 Prevent
64 Encircle
65 Chinese poet
66 Mr. Selassie
67 Mimic
68 Tobacco kiln
69 Queen __ lace
70 Count (on)
71 Shout of joy

DOWN
1 On the way
2 Star in Perseus
3 Plants of an area
4 Everywhere
5 Rouse from slumber
6 Actress Petty
7 Calendar page
8 Islander's farewell
9 Part of an eye
10 Opinion page, briefly
11 Standing
12 Three, in Munich
13 Anna of "Nana"
22 And
24 Paint layer
27 Posing no difficulty
29 Everywhere
30 "Picnic" playwright
31 Bikini tops
32 Spanish artist
33 Junk e-mail
34 Investigator's lead
35 Sentry call
37 Peggy or Spike
38 Hardy heroine
42 MBA class
44 British gun
47 Speaks pompously
49 Gaudy and cheap
51 Painter Degas
52 Shoot from hiding
54 Fictional Heep
55 Inattentive period
56 Struck soundly
57 Sunken fence
58 Author Hunter
59 Bridle strap
60 Perry's penner
61 Pitcher Hershiser

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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12/26/01

'Batang West Side,' 'La Vida Rosa,' 'Live Show,' and 'Hubog' sweep Gawad Urian nominations

THE MANUNURI ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the society of respected film critics, has announced the nominees to the 25th Gawad Urian.

The Manunuri has also announced that it will give the Gawad Urian Lifetime Achievement Award to "action king" Fernando Poe Jr. for his multifarious contributions to Philippine cinema as actor, director, producer and industry leader.

Nominated for best picture are "La Vida Rosa" (Star Cinema), "Batang West Side" (JMCM Films), "Minsan May Isang Puso" (Regal Films), "Hubog" (MAQ-Regal) and "Live Show" (Regal).

Sweeping the nominations is Chito Roño's "La Vida Rosa," a realistic tale of the underworld which got nominated in all of the categories. Aside from direction, it was nominated for best actress (Rosanna Roces), actor (Diether Ocampo), supporting actress (Liza Lorena), supporting actor (Jiro Maño), screenplay (Armando Lao), cinematography (Neil Daza), production design (Gerry Pascual), editing (Joyce Bernal and Vito Cajili), music (Jay Durias) and sound (Addisa Tabong and Alex Tomboc). All in all it got 12 nominations.

Also getting 12 nominations is "Batang West Side," the five-hour film by exciting young director Lav Diaz, on the mysterious murder of a young Filipino-American in New York. Lav himself is nominated for direction and screenplay. The movie is also nominated for best actor (Joel Torre), supporting actress (Gloria Diaz and Pricilla Almeda), supporting actor (Raul Arellano), cinematography (Miguel Fabie III), production design (Cesar Hernando), editing (Ron Dale), music (Joey Ayala) and sound (Rudy Gonzales and Alex Tomboc).

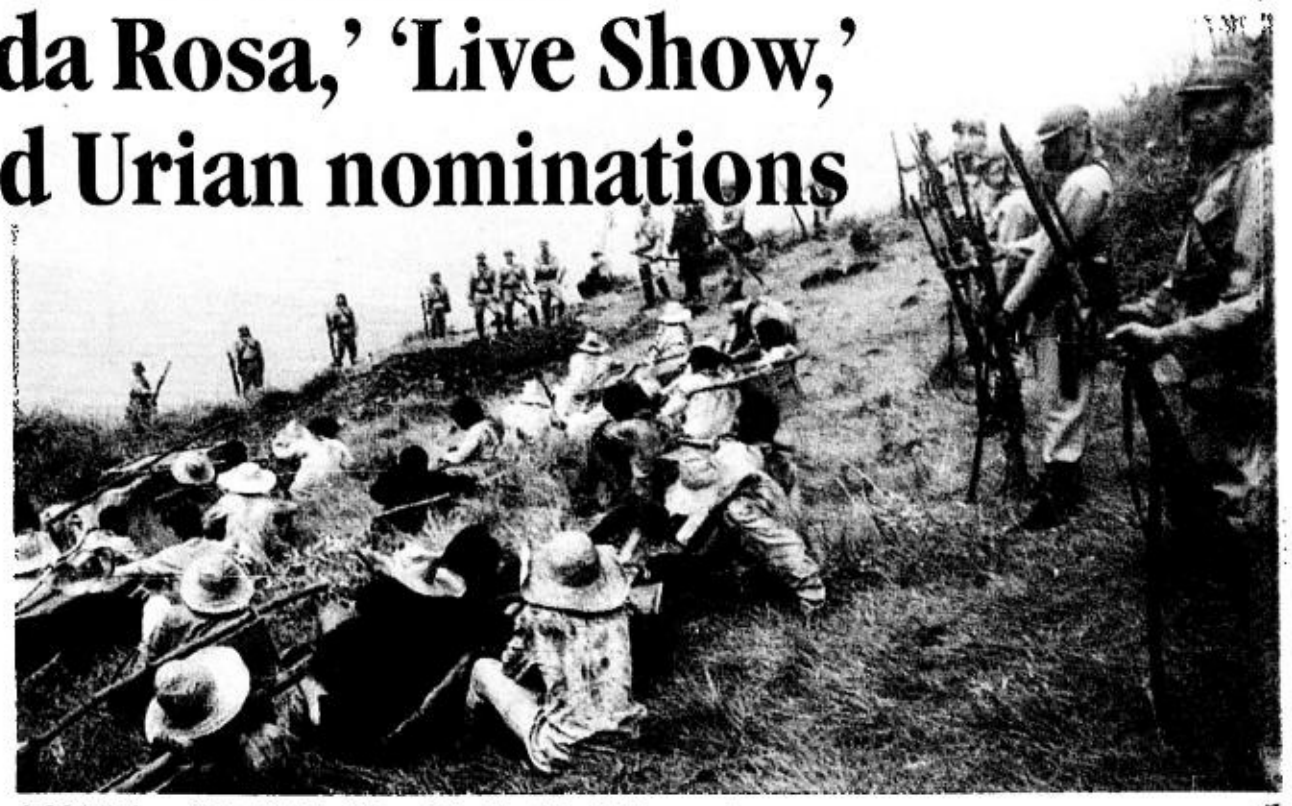
Jose Javier Reyes' "Live Show," the film about live sex performers that was easily the most controversial movie last year, also got 12 nominations. Reyes himself is nominated for best director and best screenplay. The movie is also nominated for best actor (Paulo Rivero), supporting actress (Klaudia Koronel and Hazel Espinosa), supporting actor (Simoun Ibarra), cinematography (Eduardo Jacinto), production design (Jake de Asis), editing (Vito Cajili), music (Jesse Lucas) and sound (Albert Michael Idioma).

Reyes is also nominated for best director and best screenplay for the movie "Minsan May Isang Puso," the poignant tale of a boy's attempt to keep his family together as his father goes on prolonged coma. Carlo Aquino, who plays the boy, and Ricky Davao, the cynical baker who is touched by the boy's self sacrifice, are both nominated for best actor. The movie is also nominated for best actress (Jacklyn Jose), cinematography (Eduardo Jacinto), production design (Jake de Asis) and editing (Tara Illenberger).

Also getting the lion's share of the nominations—12 in all—is "Hubog," Joel Lamangan's powerful story of two sisters struggling to keep body and soul together in the face of a society fast breaking down. Real-life sisters Assunta and Alessandra de Rossi are nominated for best actress and supporting actress. The film is also nominated for best director, supporting actor (Wendell Ramos and Jay Manalo), screenplay

BATANG/ p.F8

WENDELL Ramos and Assunta de Rossi in Joel Lamangan's "Hubog"



A SCENE from Chito Roño's "Yamashita: The Tiger's Treasure"

ROSANNA Roces in Chito Roño's "La Vida Rosa"

YUL Servo in Lav Diaz's "Batang West Side"

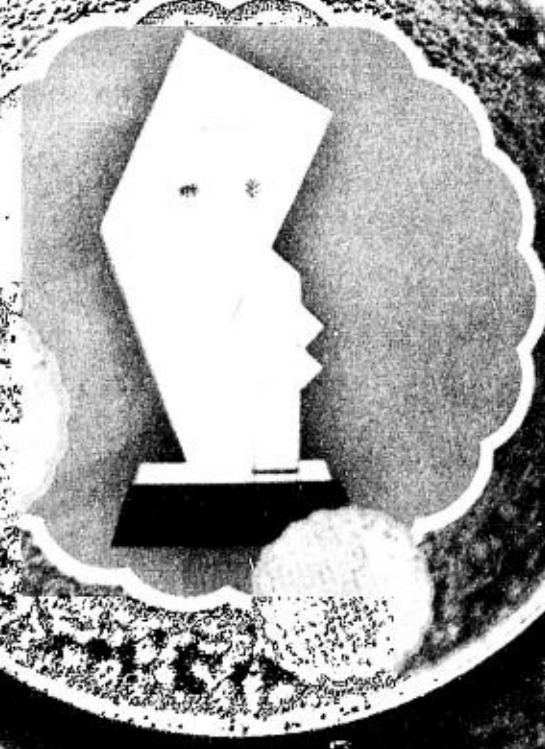
ANG GALING, ANG SARAP.

200 CHOWKING STORES IN 2002

Chowking opened its 200th store in Lingayen last January 24, 2002. The grand opening was marked by much merrymaking: dragon and lion dances, Chinese kite flying, marching bands, lighting of Chinese street lanterns, fireworks display, and a release of 200 balloons to delight visitors. Special gifts were given away to the first 200 customers who joined Chowking on this joyful event.

A TASTE OF VICTORY

chow·king *adj.* 1. outstanding; 2. above the rest



Chowking, now the largest Chinese quick-service restaurant in the Philippines, was awarded by the Philippine Franchise Association as the Most Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the year 2001. This proves that it is a company that stays true to its commitment and its name.

OUR RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Chowking makes sure their loyal customers enjoy a wide array of meticulously prepared meals. Food is served hot and fast, in value-for-money portions. The Chowking staff is driven by a passion to delight and excite, always with efficient service and a ready smile.

MORSELS OF WISDOM:

"I believe success is dependent on how people are motivated, so I motivate them to achieve goals and encourage them to have fun doing it."

— Atty. Dela Rosa, CEO

A DIP INTO THE PAST:

The first Chowking store was opened on December 1985 at Sta. Cruz, Manila. Today, it still serves customers with delicious meals at reasonable prices.

200 STORES
AND STILL GROWING

Chowking 超群

This envoy can't get no satisfaction

By Lito B. Zulueta

ROLLING STONES FAN. In his youth, Spanish Ambassador Tomás Pantoja was crazy about rock and roll and even formed a band called the Atlantics.

WHEN Spanish Ambassador Tomás Pantoja learned that he was going to be posted in Manila after a successful three-year stint as director-general of Casa America, a super office in the Spanish foreign ministry that handles the social, cultural and economic concerns of the former Spanish colonies in the Americas, North and South, his could have been the attitude of Magallanes. He might have been filled with ideas of conquering and conquest, which however otherwise masked his incomprehension and lack of understanding of what he was getting into.

"The first impression was the culture, that this is completely different, that this is Asia, that this is Southeast Asian culture," he recalls.

But the first impression was soon banished and Pantoja learned that the Philippines could have been Spain in another climate, another geography—the Philippines is Spain in an Oriental finish. He notes, for instance, "the deep sense of hospitality... the sense of family, the sense of friendship... the importance of religion."

While other Asians did not easily take to inviting foreigners to their homes, Pantoja found Filipinos only too ready to invite him to theirs. "You come here anywhere and people try to give you everything, even the thing that they don't have, which is a typical Spanish mentality," he says.

Different

Pantoja has since concluded that the Philippines shares hardly anything in common with its neighbors. "Your interests are completely different," he says. "Sometimes we heard that you are the laughing people of Asia."

The laughter—and the passion—perhaps are what best identify the Philipines with Spain. And Spain is only too eager to exploit the cultural capital that it has aplenty in order to foster closer relations with the Philippines. Perhaps this partly explains why Spanish envoys of late have been noted for their bias for culture, even for the arts.

Pantoja is no exception. He is directing "Bravo! Zarzuela," a feast of artistic forms with a combined Spanish and Filipino ensemble which the envoy hopes will prove his thesis—"I want to show that there are two elements in which our cultures meet and are absolutely basic—music and dance. And I want to show through music how similar we are. No one can even tell, artistically speaking, who is who."

No one indeed can even tell that Spain and the Philippines went to war 100 years ago in the latter's bid for independence. The two have enjoyed robust relations in the last decade or so, underscored by the state visit of King Juan Carlos and the working visit of Prime Minister José Aznar.

Pantoja himself is surprised at the lack of a trace of former hostilities. If there's any negative emotion, it is one of regret on the part of Spain.

"We consider the Philippines with a sense of regret... as our forgotten sister," he says. "Because we realize that after we left 100 years ago, Spain has not done much for the Philippines. Probably because it is very far away, we have to say that we have to love you in a big deal through all these years. The main feeling is love for the Philippines—any Filipino going to Spain can immediately notice that."

Of course, Spain has been making up for the neglect. It has so showered official aid to its former colony that the Philippines is now the world's second biggest recipient of Spanish aid.

Spanish assistance programs are well placed, such as the restoration and conservation assistance to the National Archives and research and scholarship grants on the country's Hispanic heritage. Although a generous portion of the aid is for development, a great part of it is assistance for conserving the Philippines' Spanish heritage which, come to think of it, animates or forms the scaffolding of the Filipino soul. Therefore, the programs are very important because Filipino identity is indissolubly linked with the Spanish legacy.

"WE want the Philippines to get closer to the Hispanic family," Ambassador Pantoja says. PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

No lightweight power

Thus, while culture was the element that caused the bloody breach between the two nations more than a century ago, it has become, quite ironically, the healing and even uniting force in the new century. This is unavoidable. Rising globalism may have collapsed borders and, according to critics of globalization, reduced cultures into one of bland uniformity. But it has also resulted in a merry feast of self-assertion and communal interaction.

The borders may have collapsed, but instead of jumping over the fence, the citizens of the world are looking inward to search for their identity, and outward to recognize kindred souls. In this dynamic that is both centripetal and centrifugal, the Philippine and Spain have found themselves.

Perhaps it helps that Spain is no lightweight former colonial power as far as culture—and lately economic might—are concerned. Even before England, it was really Spain that was the empire where the sun never set. Its cultural influence (the postcolonial critics would say hegemony) over its former colonies is pervasive, indomitable.

Although the Spanish sun had dimmed in the twilight of the last millennium, it seems to have resurrected with remarkable splendor in the last 25 years so that in the new century, Spain is posed to be a major player.

The signs of a Spanish renaissance are everywhere. Spain has the biggest economic growth rate in Europe. Its cities—Barcelona, Seville, Bilbao—have become centers of trade and culture. Spain is taking over the presidency of the European Union at a time when it is ascendant.

Spanish art, fashion and design are dominating influences in the world. And Spanish language and letters are surviving—even defeating—the English juggernaut. If France has only a fraction of the Spanish success in perpetuating its language and culture, it will be in cloud nine.

Revival

Spain has even tamed the American-Hollywood behemoth by perpetuating its own popular culture. Spanish and Latino superstars are competing toe to toe with American and British pop icons. Spanish cinema has become so exciting that even American producers are recasting recent Spanish hits into Hollywood fare. Witness Tom Cruise's "Vanilla Sky" and Nicole Kidman's "The Others." Pedro Almodóvar and Fernando Trueba are being lured to make films in Hollywood.

Ambassador Pantoja reflects in his person the new Spain. He is an artist, writer, intellectual, scholar (he taught Spanish literature at the University of Cardiff in Wales), theater director and business manager. He is even a rock music aficionado who, in his youth, was crazy about the Rolling Stones and formed his own rock band, the Atlantics, where he played the electric guitar. He is thus well placed and well trained to make a success out of his posting in Manila.

Pantoja is also a poet. He is now writing a collection whose "general concept is the world as seen through the eyes of a boy" but with a "mature" sensibility. The book won't be a recovery of childhood. "This is my direct poetry," he says. "Poetry makes you really free inside—this is the maximum because you can say thousands."

His is poetry affected by his travels. "Some authors are more inspired by nature," Pantoja says. "In my case, (I am inspired) by human beings, (who are part) of the expedition. Because we don't realize it, we are always with people. And without realizing it, even without words, we communicate."

And perhaps without realizing it, Pantoja has made diplomatic virtue and method out of poetry. His is simply diplomacy by poetry. Therefore, let there be commerce, poetic and sundry, between the Philippines and Spain.

LUISA Torres Benito, soprano

JOSE Antonio Moreno de Torres, tenor

JORGE Florenza, baritone

SEÑOR Alberto Portillo, choreographer

'Bravo! Zarzuela' is 'halo-halo' of the best of Spain and the Philippines

From page F1

positive attitude, you can overcome even the worst situation."

Putting this message in song is a powerhouse team of Spanish and Filipino soloists. From Spain come baritone Jorge Florenza ("Carmen," "Aida," "Rigoletto"), tenor Jose Antonio Moreno de Torres (Madrid's "Las Leandras"), and soprano Luisa Torres Benito, an opera singer who has also done "Les Miserables," "Annie" and "Jekyll and Hyde."

The Philippines is represented by bass-baritone Ronaldo Abarquez and soprano Maria Rachelle Rivera Gerodias. Abarquez, a voice major at the University of Sto. Tomas, has performed in "La Traviata," "Macbeth" and "The Student Prince." Gerodias, arguably the country's most exciting soprano today and a UST Conservatory of Music faculty member, has done her country proud in New York's Civic Morning Musicals Vocal Competition (where she won first place), the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra and the World Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

The musical director-conductor of "Bravo! Zarzuela" is José Antonio Torres, a professor in opera performance and oratory in the Royal Superior School of Music in Madrid. He was the musical director of the "La Coralla" in Madrid and of "Antologia de la Zarzuela." Choreographer Alberto Portillo has worked for various major theaters in Spain and Europe. His "La Calle del Alcala" has toured Spain and the USA extensively.

SOPRANO Rachelle Gerodias and bass Ronaldo Abarquez

Ambassador Pantoja enthuses about his Spanish choreographer's experience with the Filipina dance artists from companies like the Ballet Philippines, Philippine Ballet Theater, the UP Dance Company, the UE Dance Troupe, Steps Dance Studio, Centro Flamenco, Footworks Dance Theater and the Lines Dance Co.

"My choreographer does not speak a word of English and teaches in Spanish, but these girls catch on immediately," he enthuses. "They're also fast in getting the spirit of the dance. These girls study in the university in the morning, go to their ballet in the afternoon, rehearse with us at night—and they're always happy, they're never tired."

Then, just with a tad of Spanish gallantry, he says with a little sparkle in his eyes, "By the way they can move and dance"—not to mention that steady work ethic—"anyone of them can be a big star in Spain!"

"Bravo! Zarzuela: A Celebration of Spanish Music and Dance" will run at the CCP on Feb. 21-22, 8 p.m., and Feb. 23, 3 p.m. at the Main Theater. Call 832-1125 local 1606/1607.

Sumptuous 'paella' of Spanish films

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE SPANIARDS are again rearing rampant on the planet.

Three years ago, Pedro Almodóvar dominated the international film festivals with "All about My Mother," for which he won the Oscar Best Foreign-Language Film, making him a pillar of establishment.

And this was only seven years after compatriot Fernando Trueba received the Oscar for "Belle Époque." The following year, compatriot Carlos Saura's "Tango" was nominated for the same award.

Today Almodóvar, now 50, seems to have found an heir apparent in Alejandro Amenábar, a young filmmaker with just as recondite a mind and complex a technique. And now Amenábar is encroaching on Hollywood.

His "Open Your Eyes" is now showing in a theater near you as the Hollywood remake "Vanilla Sky." Recently shown was his Hollywood-produced "The Others," a Hitchcockian stab at the ghost story. (If the Oscars were to nominate Nicole Kidman tomorrow, it should be for her performance in this film, and not in some silly musical cavalcade.)

While of the films screened at the recent Cinemanila our favorites were mostly Asian (Turkey's delicate "Clouds of May," a homage to Chekov's "The Cherry Orchard"; South Korea's lyrico-epic "Chunhyang," the seamless "Happy End" and the extreme "The Isle"; Iran's moving "Unfinished Song"), two French ("Under the Sand," a tribute to Antonioni; and "Beau Travail," a deeply satisfying updating of Melville's "Billy Budd"), and a Bosnian ("No Man's Land," a shoo-in for this year's Oscar nomination)—arguably the three most impressive were made by a Spanish filmmaker or came from the Spanish-speaking world.

Heady stuff

The first was Luis Buñuel's penultimate masterpiece, "The Phantom of Liberty," a black comedy that thrives on a world of illogic and negation. Unfortunately, it was screened at the Greenbelt preview room, attracting only a few film students and hardcore enthusiasts.

Then there was Tomás Gutiérrez Alea's "Memories of Underdevelopment," a subtle yet no less scathing indictment of the bourgeoisie in postrevolutionary Cuba. This rare gem from the finest Cuban film artist was actually shown somewhere else but also at the time of Cinemanila.

The third was Mexican film maestro Arturo Ripstein's "Divine," a baroque vision of folk religion. The film, which brought together screen legends Katy Jurado and Francisco Rabal, resembles Buñuel's perennial stab at the Church. (Ripstein used to be an assistant of the master when he was working in Mexico.)

These are all heady stuff, and one thing they have in common is a satirical thrust. Whereas most Scandinavian films are saturated with gloom, French films characterized by lightheartedness, Spanish films often possess the blackest humor.

In these films, specifically Buñuel's and Almodóvar's, satire, farce or gallows humor is but a natural combination of laughter and curse that could only have been reflecting that country's dark Catholicism and the blinding Spanish sun.

A celebration

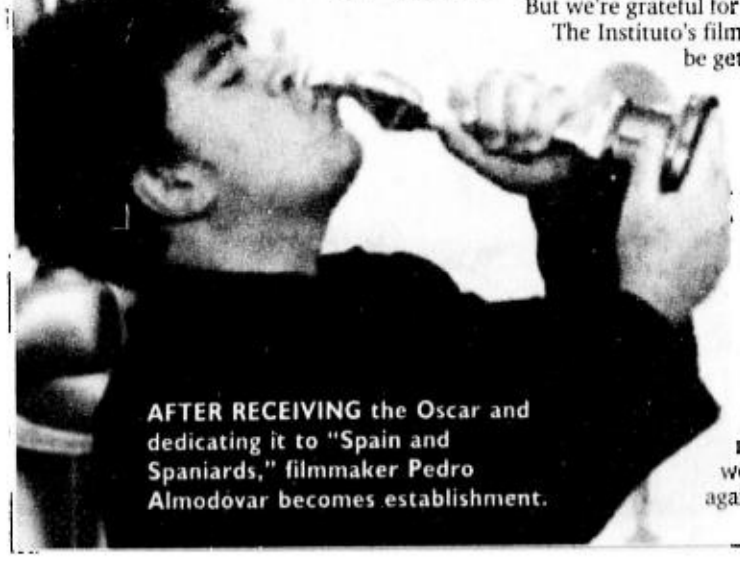
As a celebration of this peculiar kind of humor, the Instituto Cervantes in Manila has just launched a festival of eight Spanish film comedies. It opened Feb. 2 with Buñuel's "El Ángel Exterminador" (The Exterminating Angel), and closes March 23 with Almodóvar's "Kika."

Through two months then, at 5 p.m. every Saturday in the Salón de Actos, film enthusiasts can have their fill of such sumptuous servings as Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón's "Demonios en el Jardin" (Demons in the Garden), Almodóvar's "Mujeres al Borde de un Ataque de Nervios" (Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown), "Belle Époque," José Juan Bigas Luna's "Jamón, Jamón," Álex de la Iglesia's "El Día de la Bestia" (The Day of the Beast).

It's just a little disheartening, though, that we'd be seeing these riches in video screening. But we're grateful for small graces.

The Instituto's film programming seems to be getting better and better of late. It has been holding mini filmfests of the national cinemas of the Spanish-speaking world, such as films from Cuba, Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela. And now this.

It used to be that Spain didn't have what would constitute a national cinema. But now, look at them, there seems to be another Spanish armada out to conquer the world for the crown once again.



AFTER RECEIVING the Oscar and dedicating it to "Spain and Spaniards," filmmaker Pedro Almodovar becomes establishment.

No such thing as a Valentine date

By Luna Griño-Inocian
Contributor

JUST a few more days before Valentine's Day and the excitement is building up. Valentine cards are bookstores' bestsellers; red roses have been ordered for the big day despite the fact their prices have tripled; reservations for romantic dinners have been made, and tickets for Valentine concerts have been bought.

Pity the poor performer, however, whose preparation for this great day of love usually means going to rehearsals and spends the romantic day date-less! He won't be making dinner reservations because he will be working till after dinnertime. The roses bought and paid in advance will most likely go to someone with whom he can't spend the evening or, in the case of a female artist, the flowers will sit on her dressing room table fighting for space among the makeup and wigs. And he or she won't need to buy tickets to a concert or play because they'll most likely be in it!

I have written Valentine show spiel after Valentine show spiel over the years, basically saying, "*Buti pa kayo may* date. I obviously don't have one because I'm here." Or "How I wish I could be in the audience right now, looking into someone's eyes lovingly and squeezing his hand when the artist sings a really romantic song. Instead, I'm the artist singing the romantic song on stage... alone!"

But that's the way things are. Artists (and the attendant production personnel who are actually worse off because they work unnoticed and unappreciated) work during Valentine's Day. It's peak season when rates are at a premium, for goodness sake!

So the love life (if having an artist's life and schedule has actually allowed for the development of a relationship) is put on hold for the day. At the very best, the artist's loved one will be in the audience, gazing lovingly and supportively from across a crowded room... the enchanted evening postponed to some later date!

So Asia's songbird spends her evening with a black knight; a classy diva sings love songs with a world-renowned pianist; theater actors strut their stuff onstage in romantic comedies, and countless others all over the country sing their hearts out to lovers in the audience rather than a lover in their arms.

OF STAGE

AUDIE Gemora

MELANIE Galloway

However, next time you hear that spiel about the performer being envious of the couples in the audience, don't take them too seriously! For many, performing is their first love... and many times, their biggest love! So, in truth, they are spending this day of love with their beloved! Except in this case, the object is not a person... much the same way as, contrary to popular belief, the song "What I Did for Love" was written about the love for art, not the love of a person. And the words couldn't have been more indicative of what every performer feels on Valentine's Day—"Kiss the day goodbye... the sweetness and the sorrow... we did what we had to do... won't forget... can't regret what I did for love."

Before I close, another shameless plug—catch four artists (Audie Gemora, Carla Martinez, Carlo Orosa and New York-based opera soprano Melanie Galloway) who will also be dateless on Valentine's Day because they will be performing... at the Meralco Theater for an evening of pop, Broadway and opera hits. It's going to be a rather different Valentine experience and I promise there won't be any spiels about being dateless and single. I know—I wrote the script!

Macuja reprises 'Don Quixote' for month of hearts

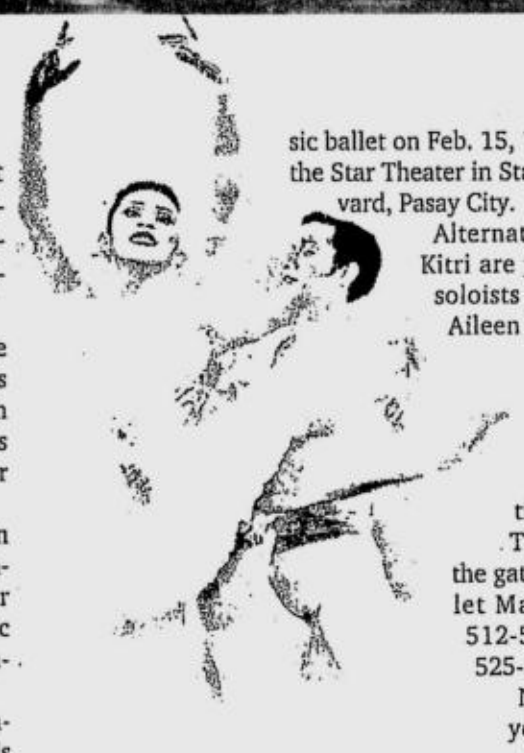
LISA Macuja and Osias Barroso as Kitri and Basilio

EVERY ballerina has a most memorable part. For Lisa Macuja, the feisty Kitri of "Don Quixote" definitely ranks among her all-time favorites.

Since 1986, Macuja has danced the role of this mischievous innkeeper's daughter in no less than 34 full-length productions and over 160 performances of the famous grand pas de deux all over the world.

As a member of the prestigious Russian institution in dance, the Kirov Ballet, Macuja debuted as Kitri opposite premier danseurs Faroukh Ruzimatov (now artistic director of the Kirov) and Irek Mukhamedov.

Over the years, her Basilios have included American Ballet Theater principals Wes Chapman and Parrish Maynard; People's Artist of Russia Vasily Polushin; Ballet Philippines' premier danseur Nonoy Froilan and Ballet Manila's principal danseur and ballet master Osias Barroso. Macuja breathes life into Kitri once more in Ballet Manila's full-length production of the classic ballet on Feb. 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24 at the Star Theater in Star City, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.



AILEEN Gallinera and Jeffrey Espejo

Alternating with Macuja as Kitri are young and talented soloists Pamela Asprer and Aileen Gallinera, who will have remarkable danseurs, brothers Eduardo and Jeffrey Espejo, as their respective Basilios.

Tickets are available at the gate or through the Ballet Manila secretariat at 512-5031/32, 521-6417, 525-5967.

Now on its seventh year, Ballet Manila is the country's only touring classical ballet company. Artistic director is Macuja.

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Two ways to fall in love:

1) Love at first sight.

Show your love on Valentine's Day in two romantic ways. First, you may get your special someone a gift via the BPI 2002 Valentine Catalogue* from February 1 to 28, 2002. Simply browse through the catalogue's huge selection of gift ideas like books, CDs, chocolates, tickets to shows, and even dinner reservations. You'll never run out of sweet ways to please your loved one. And with these gifts come more sweet deals like discounts and freebies.

2) Love at the site.

Second, get inside one special world of Valentine gifts at the BPI Valentine Spell Exhibit at Glorietta from February 6 to 15. With an array of heartwarming items like jewelry, cameras, and even travel packages, you will certainly find the perfect one for your love. Either way, and whichever gift you choose, your Valentine will surely love you twice as much.

Visit these fine shops at the exhibit: Alexis Jewelry Inc. • Acme Jewelry Inc. • Lucerne • Naomi's Jewelry Exchange • Parklane • Diagem/DG Alahas • Tiara de Onor • Canon • Kodak • Link Import-Export Ent. Inc. • Noel Gifts • Hallmark • Globe • TRIPS Travel • The Flight Shop • Warner Home Video

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GLORIA Diaz is nominated for best supporting actress while Lav Diaz is nominated for best director for "Batang West Side."

MARK Anthony Fernandez, best actor nominee for "Dos Ekis"

'Batang West Side,' . . .

From page F3

(Roy Iglesias), cinematography (Romulo Araojo), production design (Larry Matic), editing (Tara Illenberger), music (Jessie Lasaten) and sound (Albert Michael Idioma).

Also nominated for best actress are Maricel Soriano for "Mila" and Mylene Dizon for "Gatas." Also nominated for best actor are Cesar Montano for "Bagong Buwan" and Mark Anthony Fernandez for "Dos Ekis." Likewise nominated for best supporting actor is Carlo Muñoz for "Yamashita: The Tiger's Treasure."

Aside from best actor, "Dos Ekis," a stylish gangland tale by Yam Laranas, is also nominated for best cinematography (Ja Tadena), production design (Rodell Cruz), editing (Danny Gloria) and music (Lourd de Veyra).

Aside from best actor, "Bagong Buwan," the movie about the Mindanao conflict by Marilou Diaz-Abaya, is nominated for cinematography (Eduardo Jacinto).

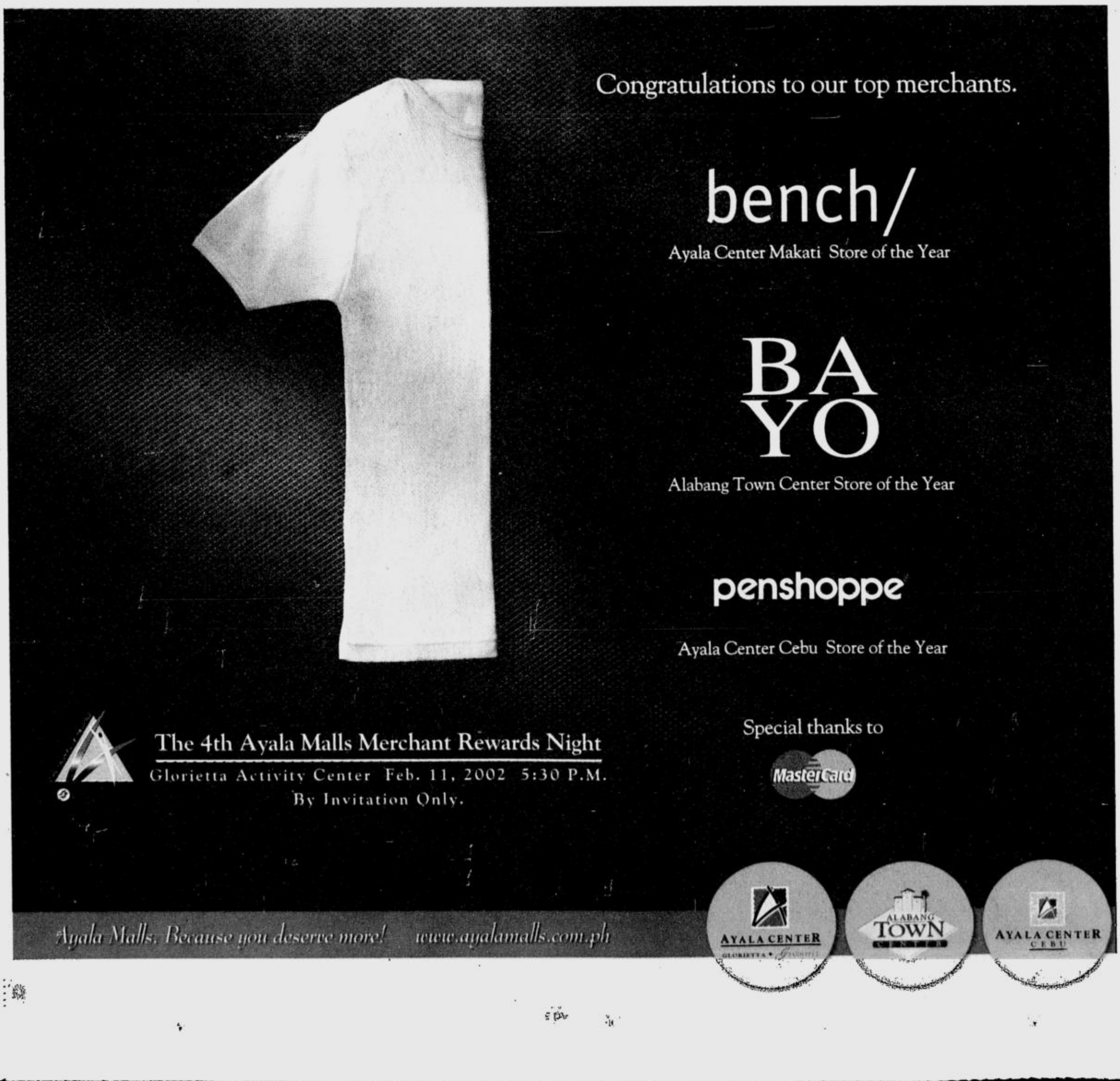
CARLO Aquino, best actor nominee for "Minsan May Isang Puso"

CARLO Muñoz, best supporting actor nominee for "Yamashita"

The Manunuri is chaired by Mario Hernando, editor of Sunday Malaya and lecturer at the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters. Vice chair is Gigi Javier-Alfonso of the UP College of Mass Communications (UP CMC), and secretary-treasurer is Lito Zulueta, editor at INQUIRER and journalism coordinator of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters.

Members are Ramon Magsaysay laureate Bienvenido Lumbera, former Cultural Center of the Philippines artistic director and Movie and Television Review and Classification Board chair Nicanor Tiongson, broadcast personality Butch Francisco and Dean Ellen Paglinauan of the UP CMC.

Other members are Bro. Mike Rapatan, F.S.C., chair of the Department of Communications of De la Salle University, and Prof. Rolando Tolentino of UP CMC.



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LIFESTYLE

Arts/Design

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Expatriate wives make museum-going a personal experience

By Berry Pelaez-Marfori
Contributor

VISITORS to the Philippines who want to learn more about the country can look forward to tours of the Ayala Museum conducted in their own language.

This special service is offered by the Museum Volunteers of the Phils. (MVP), made up mostly of expatriate women wanting to make a meaningful contribution to their host country as well as to their fellow citizens.

Following rigorous training at the Ayala Museum, now located at Glorietta 2, they conduct tours of the museum's 63 dioramas, in Japanese, Chinese, French and other languages. A visitor needs only to call the museum ahead of time to set an appointment with a volunteer tour guide who can speak the language of his choice.

The program has gained a following in the expatriate community for the last 13 years. Many visitors learn about the service through word of mouth and are pleasantly surprised to learn much about the Philippines from their fellow countrymen.

If these expatriate wives can make a 30-minute discourse on Philippine history, it is because they undergo a six-month Docent Training Course beginning every September. The course gives them a sweeping view of Philippine history and culture from pre-history to the present.

This year, more than 30 students are participating in the course. There's a good mix of Japanese, French, British, Singaporean and Taiwanese as well as Filipinos who want to brush up on their knowledge of the country.

Interaction

Observes Hazel Foot, MVP chair: "We attract people who are interested in history and culture as well as those who simply want to interact and make friends with fellow expatriates."

According to training course leader Barbara Wang, the group invites historians, authors and university professors to discuss topics such as the historical periods, indigenous peoples or folk art. The weekly lectures are then complemented by cultural tours to museums or historic houses. By the end of the course, the participants are not only conversant in Philippine history, they will also have been immersed in the culture of their adopted home.

"As a newcomer to any country, the first thing one wants to know about is its people," says Foot. "The museum volunteer program was created so that long-staying visitors to the country could learn about the Philippines and what they can give back in return."

For the volunteers, the program also fulfills a personal need for stimulation and learning. Ac-

EXPATRIATE/ p.G4

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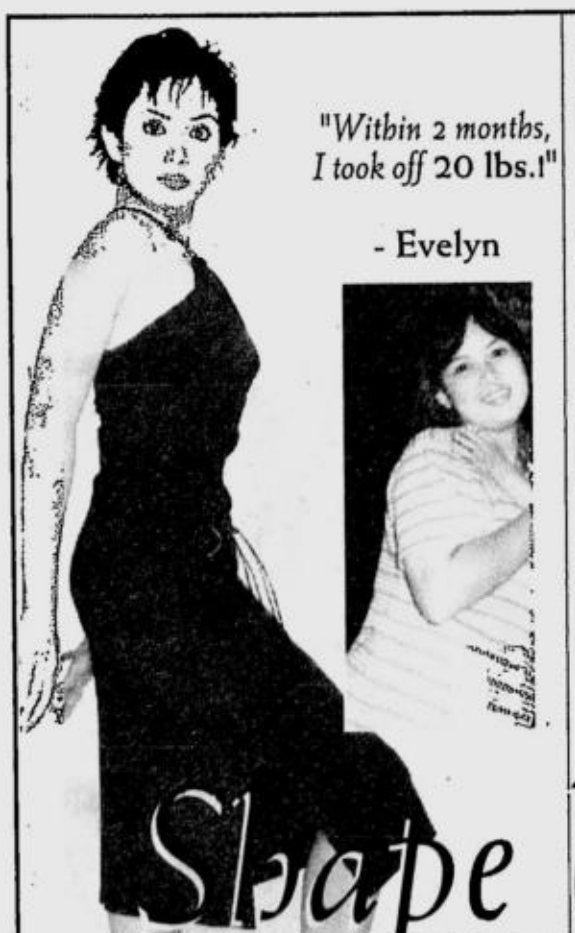

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PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

FORMER Ambassador Isabel Caro Wilson, Jessie Huberty, Miren Berenguer, Habla Assad, Carla Wales, Ana Olondriz and Mila Wales

Indian feast, Sansó sheen and artist's beginnings

THERE was the usual wonderful swift of colored silk saris at the reception tendered by newly arrived Indian Ambassador **Navrekha Sharma** on the occasion of India's National Day on Jan. 26. The ambassador herself wore this enticing burgundy and gold sari that evoked the opulence of India's varied culture.

Buffet tables were set up in- and outdoors so that most of the guests had a chance to sample authentic Indian cuisine. There were *samosas* served with chili sauce and *kebabs* with freshly baked *naan* and mixed vegetable curries. The dessert, *Gulab Jamun*, small balls made from flour, yogurt and butter that can be eaten hot or cold and marinated in syrup, is the answer to anyone's sweet tooth. And just for your info: finding curry powder in India would be difficult since it really is a specialty of the British!

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

We were happy to see former President **Fidel Ramos** and former Finance Secretary **Bobby de Ocampo**, French Ambassador **Gilles Chouraqui**, Rep. **Teddy Locsin** and his better-half **Louie**, **Ivi Costa**, and Vice President and Foreign Secretary **Teofisto Guingona**, who spoke eloquently on Filipino-Indian relations.

Well-wishers included Dr. **Luciano** and Ms **Helen Ong**, Israeli Ambassador **Irit Ben Area**, **Paz Yuchengco**, US Embassy consul **Ed Weherli**, who will soon be leaving for Pakistan with his family, Swedish Ambassador and Mme. **Ulf Hakansson**, Peruvian Ambassador **Julio Cardenas**, who will be leaving us for Singapore, Nigerian Ambassador Chief **Ray O.O. Inije**, Russian Ambassador **Anatoli Khmelnitski**, Cuban Ambassador and Mme.

INDIAN/ p.G3

CONGRESSMAN and Ms Teddy Locsin

MARIXI Prieto and Venezuela Ambassador Milena Ramirez

INDIAN Ambassador Navrekha Sharma and former President Ramos

JAPANESE Ambassador Yoshihisa Ara and former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo

SWEDISH Ambassador and Mme. Ulf Hakkanson

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February 8

February 12

February 13
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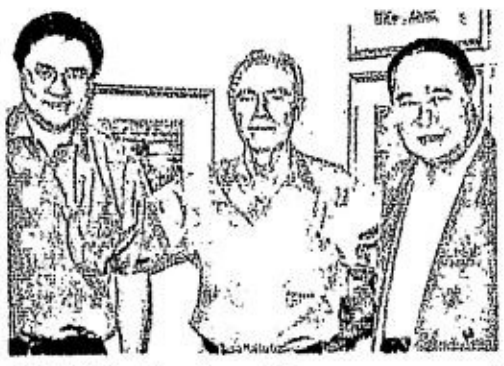
Indian feast, Sansó sheen and artist's beginnings



ERWIN Yu, Sansó and Henry Sy

SANSÓ with fellow artists Dr. Rod. Paras-Perez, Fil Delacruz and Lex Tubiera

From page G2

Ramon Alonso Medina, Singapore Ambassador and Mme. **Jacky Foo**, and many others (we'd need a list the size of your PLDT directory to fit the rest).

Glowing Sansó

BACK in town from Paris for his yearly shows is mega-popular international artist **Juvenal Sansó**, who is holding "Glowing Earth" at the Finale and "Streams of Thought" at The Drawing Room. The former is in the trademark Sansó colors and the latter is in black and white—both equally wonderful.

CUBAN Ambassador and Mme. Ramon Alonso Medina with Malta Ambassador Enrique Syquia

PAZ Yuchengco and Israel Ambassador Irit Ken Abba

NIGERIAN Ambassador Chief Ray O.O. Inije

New artist

UP-AND-COMING artist **Carla Antunez Wales** held her first international exhibit, "Shadows and Light," at Gallery 139 in the Glorietta on Feb. 1 (it runs up to the 12th). The works of the New York-based Carla are in the style of the classic school of Dutch painting with tranquil landscapes and rich vibrant colors. She also specializes in large murals and faux finishes. At the opening was proud mom, **Mila Wales**, with all the *titas* making sure the show was a success.

WAVE 89.1
Joe D' Mango's Love notes
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WAVE 89.1
Joe D Mango's Love notes

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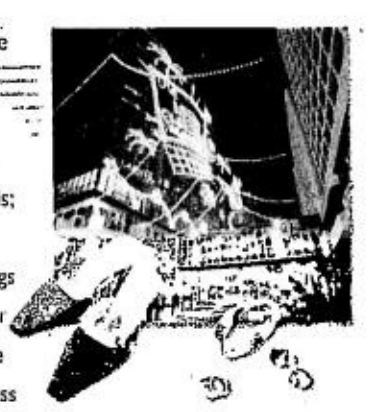

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We're opening the doors on Asia's biggest party with attractions and cultural events all over Hong Kong. From the Bun Festival on Cheung Chau island to the International Dragon Boat Festival in Sha Tin, there is something for every age and interest. Age old religious festivals, space-age lighting displays, you name it, you'll find it in the City of Life. And if that's not enough for you, we've added 5 new Major Events during the festival and holiday season, plus year-round cultural, sporting and heritage activities.

Hong Kong Lights Up!

We're turning up the lights on Victoria Harbour. In the weeks leading up to Chinese New Year (26 Jan–26 Feb), we're transforming the harbour and surrounding areas with dazzling lighting displays and magical seasonal decorations. While the incredible 'Rhythm of Light—Aqua Fantasia' music and light show at Centenary Garden in Tsim Sha Tsui East will leave you breathless.

A parade that covers the globe.

No city ushers in Chinese New Year quite like Hong Kong. We'll be welcoming the Year of the Horse on 12 February 2002 with the 2002 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Parade & Fiesta —an eye-catching, ear-pounding, wondrous array of floats and exciting performers. And on the third day of the New Year, world-class horse racing will have you cheering for your favourites at the Sha Tin race course. So gallop into the Year of the Horse with us.

Saying it with flowers.

Talk about a city coming into bloom. From 4–17 March 2002, we'll be hosting the Hong Kong Flower Extravaganza, when the world's finest florists and horticulturalists will show their talents with floral displays and innovative landscape designs all over the city. And with spring in the air, it's a great time to explore Hong Kong's natural treasures with a nature walk or a guided countryside tour.

Everything must go!

There's nowhere quite like this shopper's paradise. During the Mega Hong Kong Sale, from June to August 2002, you'll enjoy sizzling savings as retailers and malls across Hong Kong offer great deals and special promotions. Whether you're looking for designer Italian outfits, antique jewellery or the latest electronic gadget, this is the time to shop till you drop.

Dance to the beat.

You'll be dancing in the streets (and everywhere else) during the City of Life Street Carnival. Catch the jitterbug fever with non-stop action from local and international musicians, street performers and enough entertainment to keep the whole family moving and grooving. It's all set to be the street party of the year, come December 2002.

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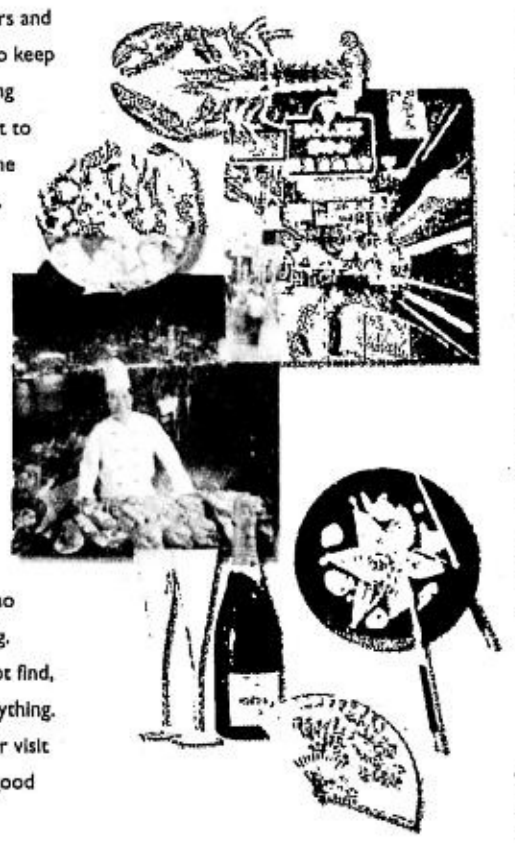

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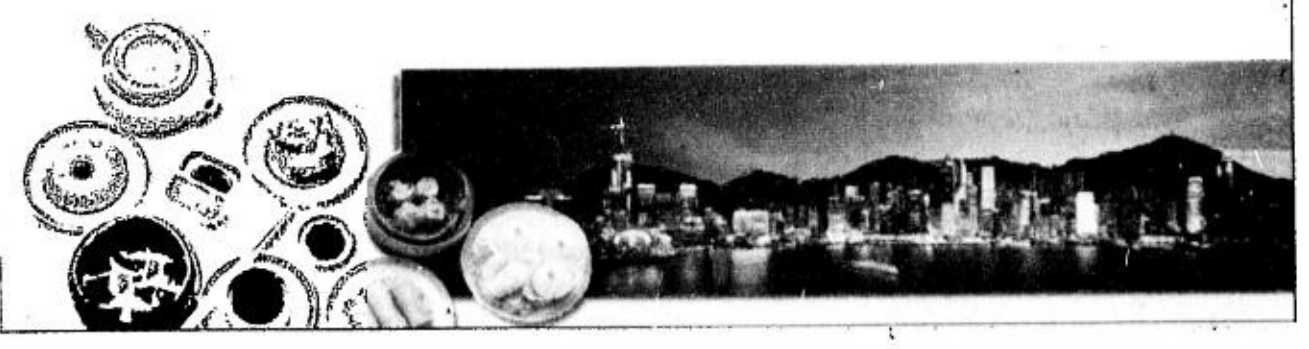

Expatriate wives make museum-going a personal experience

From page G1

cording to Foot, many of the women left flourishing careers in their home country as accountants, nurses, chemists, painters or business executives in order to be with their expatriate husbands.

She muses: "We do it equally as much for our own knowledge as it promotes understanding of other people's culture. It's interesting to get a view of history from the perspective of Filipinos. It's an eye-opener."

In fact, adds Wang, volunteers tend to become so immersed in the program that many go as far as doing research on historical or cultural topics that interest them. Some are even willing to spend an afternoon at the Filipinas Heritage Library, where they have free access, to be able to report their discoveries to their peers. They also take turns practicing their spiels to each other.

"It's a confidence booster. Many of us have never thought we would be able to do this. Even our husbands are amazed to hear us talk about Filipino culture and history," laughs Wang.

Since Ayala Museum opened its diorama exhibit at Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, in late November, the new museum volunteers have been expecting to have their hands full of visitors who want to learn about the Philippines.

But Foot welcomes the museum's new location at the mall, a temporary home while the new Ayala Museum is being built. For one, the dioramas are more brightly lit and cover twice the floor space than they used to.

Interactive sessions such as pottery making or cloth weaving will also be included as part of the exhibit. And with tours led by these animated expatriate wives, going to the museum just keeps getting better.

EXPATRIATE members of the Museum Volunteers Association of the Philippines do their share to promote the culture and heritage of their host country by conducting tours in various languages for foreign visitors at Ayala Museum.

ROMANTIC, romanticized idyll

The serene figures and colors of Mike Austria

MIKE Austria's art breathes off calm and placidity. His artwork shows touches of brilliant colors, mirroring the glorious hues of the flowers and birds that animate the natural world.

The creative arrangements of his objects introduce a note of order and serenity. Simple, everyday items such as baskets, flowers, fruits and pots come in harmonious colors and shapes that relate well to one another and to the space around them.

The people are recognizably those bound to the cycles of work—harvesting, selling their catch and their harvest. People pause from their toil and gather to speak in soft voices. In all these, Austria steers away from any anxious subject and dwells on placidity.

He paints the people and their world after the long hard hours of labor, in their leisure hours, during their noonday meals.

Austria's eighth one-man show titled "Kulay ng Pag-ibig" opens on Feb. 12, 6 p.m., and runs through Feb. 26, at the Metropolitan Gallery, 4/L SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong. Call 673-8387 to -88.

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Tuesday, February 12, 2002 ★ 66 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 66 P15

Chavit confirms reporter kidnapped

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Even as a skeptical military has classified journalist Arlyn de la Cruz as missing and not a kidnap victim, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson yesterday confirmed she has been abducted.

CHAVIT/A6

Senators' walkout snags Camacho OK

Majority accused of railroading confirmation

THE TORMENTED, a dazed Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, walls off his tormentor, Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta during his stormy confirmation hearing at the Senate on Monday. JESS YUSON

By Cynthia D. Balana, Rocky Nazareno and Clarissa S. Batino

NINE minority senators walked out of the Senate plenary session yesterday to denounce the majority coalition for "railroading" the confirmation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, after a crucial subcommittee of the bicameral Commission on Appointments voted to confirm him yesterday.

Camacho's confirmation, however, was cheered by the members of the business community, many of whom filled the gallery of the Senate hall, wearing blue-and-white ribbons to show their support for the finance secretary-designate.

The subcommittee had voted 14 in favor, with Sen. Blas Ople abstaining and Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta dissenting.

In a hastily called press conference, opposition senators led by Minority Leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. denounced Senate President Franklin Drilon for "destroying the independence of the Senate" and the majority senators in the CA for disregarding Senate rules and traditions in holding plenary sessions.

The nine—Pimentel, Oreta, Ople, Edgardo Angara, Gregorio Honasan, Panfilo Lacson, Loi Ejercito-Estrada, Vicente Sotto III and Rodolfo Biazon—also agreed to invoke Section 20 of the CA rules by filibustering during the plenary voting of the CA on Camacho on Wednesday.

Section 20 is a "non-debatable motion to defer a nomination"—meaning the vote of the CA's subcommittee on finance may not be

SENATORS/A6

16 solons to join 40 who signed impeach rap

By Christine Avendaño

AN ORIGINAL Spice Boy supporting the second impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said yesterday that 40 members of the House had already signed the verified complaint, and 16 others have also committed to sign it.

Malabon Rep. Federico Sandoval said the verified complaint his group was passing around was gaining support, and expressed hope that they would get the 73 signatures required to send the second impeachment complaint to the Senate.

He declined to identify the signatories, except to say that House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla and Rep. Oscar Moreno, who had co-filed the second complaint and endorsed the first, were among them. Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon has also signed the verified complaint, even as his father Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday that the impeachment initiative against

16SOLONS/A6

Gov't, critics urged to stop name-calling

By Christian V. Esguerra, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac

A CATHOLIC bishop and a businessman yesterday asked the public to put in proper context President Macapagal-Arroyo's acerbic statement against those opposed to the RP-US war exercises in Mindanao.

Their call came as two groups asked the Supreme Court to make Ms Macapagal liable for supporting "Balikatan 02-1," which they said was unconstitutional.

In a petition, Sanlakas and Partido ng Manggagawa said the President authorized US troops to "actually engage

GOVT/A18

Military shifts focus to Jolo; 10 Abus killed

By Martin P. Marfil

THE MILITARY has shifted the focus of its counter-terrorism campaign from Basilan to Jolo where 10 Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed Sunday in fierce clashes with Army soldiers.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Southern Command based in Zamboanga City, said three Army battalions were now hunting down about 100 Abu Sayyaf gunmen in Jolo.

"The intention is to comply with the presidential directive to finish off the Abu Sayyaf. So, we are now shifting our main effort in Jolo while we conduct mopping-up operations in Basilan and try to rescue the hostages," Cimatu said.

Both Basilan and Jolo are considered Abu Sayyaf strongholds. The bandits, who have been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, are holding an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse in Basilan.

It was in Jolo, however, where the bandits kept for months 21 mostly foreign hostages they seized from a Malaysian resort in 2000 and later freed in exchange for millions of dollars in ransom.

Cimatu said intelligence reports indicated that the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo had linked up with 150 armed followers of jailed Moro rebel leader Nur Misuari.

MILITARY/A18

Sex patch for women coming...

MASON, Ohio—Procter & Gamble Co., which is better known for its toothpaste, soap and detergent products, is developing a testosterone patch that it says can restore libido in postmenopausal women.

The Cincinnati company will invest several hundred million dollars to develop the patch, called Intrinsa, but it won't be available for several years yet.

Nearly transparent and the size of an egg, the patch is worn just below the navel and changed about twice weekly.

But doctors caution the public against expecting miracles from

SEX/A6

RP to insist on authority of Filipino commanders—Reyes

By Martin P. Marfil, Christine Herrera and Christian V. Esguerra

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday said that the Philippines would not drop its demand to place American troops under Filipino commanders during the Balikatan military exercise in Mindanao.

Reyes took the hardline stance on the eve of the teleconference between Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and US Secretary of State Collin Powell.

At the teleconference scheduled for this morning, Powell is expected to give the US side on the terms of reference (TOR) that will govern the conduct of the six-month-long Balikatan exercises.

"We are not dropping (the demand). We are making clear who has authority and who has command. It will come out in the terms of reference when it is finally issued," Reyes said after a command conference in Camp Aguinaldo.

The remarks came amid the controversy over who would have command over US troops during the military exercise.

Under the Philippine proposal, a Filipino commander would have command over all the forces participating in Balikatan 02-1 but the US panel op-

RP/A18

'Assassin' mars GMA visit for Javier's 16th death anniversary

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. *PDI Visayas Bureau* **and Dona Pazzibugan** *in Manila*

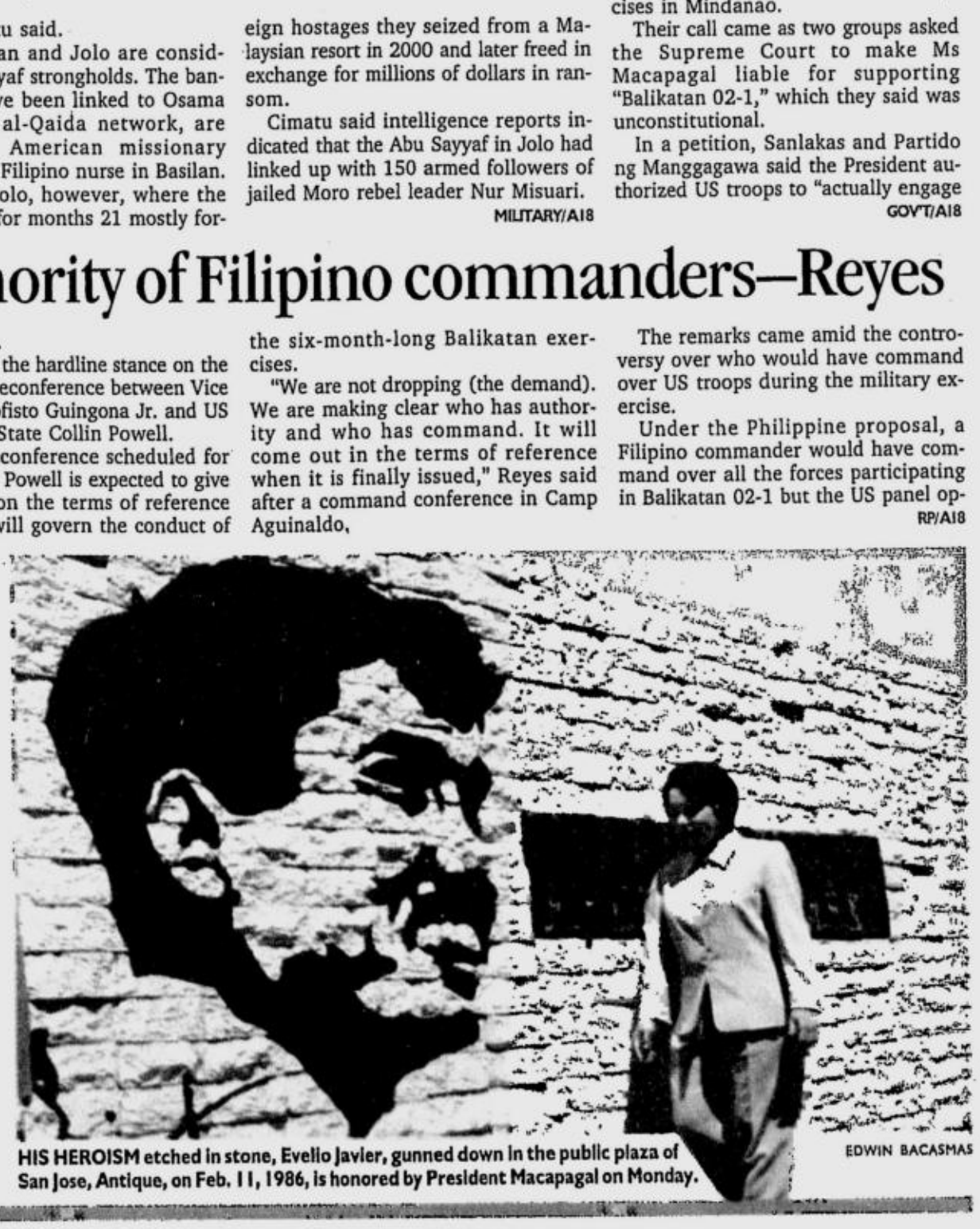
SAN JOSE, Antique—President Macapagal-Arroyo observed the 16th death anniversary of anti-Marcos oppositionist Evelio Javier yesterday, calling him "one of the heroes of the country."

But the President's visit to honor the assassinated former governor was itself temporarily interrupted with an assassination scare.

A man armed with a knife who said he didn't know his own name was arrested yesterday just minutes before the President's helicopter landed. "It was not an assassination attempt," Col. Hermogenes Esperon, chief of the Presidential Security Group, told reporters.

Supt. Ranier Idio, Antique police director, identified the suspect as Berlie Polo, 20, of Salazar Street,

ASSASSIN/A6



HIS HEROISM etched in stone, Evelio Javier, gunned down in the public plaza of San Jose, Antique, on Feb. 11, 1986, is honored by President Macapagal on Monday. EDWIN BACASMAS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2002

Second FRONT PAGE

Court tells Comelec to enforce ID deal

By Blanche S. Rivera

A QUEZON City court has upheld the contract awarded to a Photokina Corp.-led consortium two years ago to set up the Voters Registration and Identification System (VRIS) across the country.

Quezon City Judge Luisa Quijano Padilla has ordered the Commission on Elections to recognize its contract with the consortium.

In an eight-page resolution, Padilla directed Comelec officials to "immediately resume negotiations to formalize execution of the contract" which Photokina Marketing Corp. and its partners won in an October 2000 bidding.

Padilla reversed her earlier decision denying the consortium's petition for a writ of mandatory injunction against the Comelec.

"A thorough review of the facts and the laws applicable in this issue clearly indicated the matter deserved a second look," Padilla said in her ruling handed down Feb. 7.

Padilla, in her latest ruling, granted the motion for reconsideration filed by Photokina, which compelled the Comelec to honor its contract with the consortium.

The QC judge also junked the Comelec's omnibus motion to dismiss the case and reconsider its earlier granting of a prohibitory injunction.

The VRIS, a P6.5-billion modernization project spread over five years, is designed to clean up the voters' database which contains the names of 35 million registered voters in the country.

The Comelec under chair Alfredo Benipayo had sought to junk the project and find a cheaper and faster way to modernize the polls in time for the 2004 presidential election.

The decision by the Quezon City court came less than a month after the technical working group composed of Comelec and Senate representatives voted to scrap the VRIS for the 2004 elections.

WRONG SIGNAL

'Crime fighter' hits Mendoza extension

By Abigail L. Ho

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to extend the term of Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza has given the "wrong signal" to the Chinese-Filipino community, Teresita Ang-See, the head of the Citizens Action Against Crime, said yesterday.

"It's giving us a confused signal that the government doesn't care," Ang-See said.

Giving Mendoza another nine months at the PNP was like saying there was nobody else good enough to replace a police chief with an allegedly "tainted record," said Ang-See.

"He was given more than a year to restore the people's confidence in the police, and he failed. The government is giving us the message that nobody's good enough to do the job," she said.

The President's spokesperson said, however, that other Chinese-Filipino leaders did not share Ang-See's opinion.

Other opinions

"We take anybody's opinion, but there are other opinions. Ang-See is not the only representative of the Chinese community," Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

He said Ms Macapagal remained confident in the leadership of Mendoza.

Ang-See said the proof of Mendoza's failure was the 30 foreigners, the highest number, kidnapped last year, as well as a large number of murders and a chain of pawnshop and drugstore robberies.

"We hope (the President) will change her mind. She still has two months," Ang-See said.

She said she was not particularly rooting for Mendoza's designated replacement, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, but "at least he doesn't have a tainted record."

Ang-See added she hoped that Chinese-Filipino businessmen who are the kidnap-for-ransom syndicates' favorite targets would not just stand by and let the decision stand.

She said that some groups have already written position papers voicing their disapproval.

Nine more months

Mendoza, who was to retire in March, was given another nine months in office.

Ms Macapagal made the announcement during the PNP anniversary last week.

Ang-See and Carina Agarao, the head of the Crusade Against Violence, opposed Mendoza's appointment when it was announced last year.

Ang-See also sits in the National Anti-Crime Commission.

Ang-See said the extension would trigger "turf wars" within the PNP.

"We don't reward people who do not do their jobs," she has said.

Mendoza, meanwhile, has proposed that an anti-organized crime summit be held in Mindanao this month because of the still unsolved high-profile kidnappings perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf and the Pentagon gang.

Deputy Director General Rex Piad, head of the PNP Directorial Staff, said Mendoza has issued a directive to police officials to organize the summit and invite local officials and businessmen.

Mendoza's directive comes in the wake of Ms Macapagal's order for the police to take the lead in neutralizing the Pentagon gang and the military to concentrate on the Abu Sayyaf.

The Pentagon gang is holding hostage Italian priest Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni.

The Abu Sayyaf are holding American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham.

Mendoza also directed police officials to redirect their efforts into preventing kidnappings in their areas during a special meeting he called yesterday.

"We're looking into reports that remnants of kidnap groups that we have neutralized were now back in business," Piad said.

6 cases in January

There were six reported kidnap-for-ransom cases in January and at least two this month.

At least 20 kidnap-for-ransom syndicates are on the watch list of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force.

Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante, deputy chief for operations, has been designated overall chief of police operations against kidnap-for-ransom cases in Mindanao.

"He will also coordinate with the AFP regarding kidnapping cases," Piad said.

Police yesterday announced the arrest of three men behind the alleged abduction and rape of a businesswoman and the killing of her driver last week.

The suspects, identified as Datu Amala Pundoga, Lacson Tambidan and Mitmug Okoda, were arrested in on Saturday by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

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TOBACCO TAX KICKBACK

Court won't drop graft case vs Erap

By Volt Contreras

THE GRAFT case stemming from the alleged kickback of P130 million in tobacco excise taxes—in which Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito was implicated along with her husband, deposed President Joseph Estrada, and son Jinggoy—refuses to die in the Sandiganbayan.

The court's first division affirmed yesterday its June 2001 ruling denying the state prosecutor's bid to have the case withdrawn and consolidated with the plunder case currently being heard against the Estradas.

On Jan. 30, the first division had denied for lack of merit the prosecution's motion for reconsideration of its petition—the last Estrada-related pleading resolved by the division before it turned over the cases against the former chief executive to a special division created by the Supreme Court.

The special division acted immediately on the first division ruling and ordered prosecutors to present evidence to support their case within three days—something government lawyers had refused to do before the first division.

The tobacco tax case accuses Estrada and others of pocketing P130 million in tobacco excise taxes meant for the leaf-growing provinces for the development of the industry.

The funds were allegedly demanded by Estrada from then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson—who later blew the whistle on the former president—in July or August 1998.

Of the P130 million, P70 million allegedly went to Estrada, P25 million to his close friend, Charlie "Atong" Ang, P20 million to Senator Ejercito and P15 million to Jinggoy, according to the charge sheet.

Also accused were Eleuterio Tan, Alma Alfaro and Delia Rajas—all employees of Ang who were alleged to have opened the bank accounts through which the money was laundered.

None of the accused has been arraigned in the case, although arrest warrants had been issued for them in the plunder case—which counts the tax case as one of the predicate crimes.

Of the eight cases filed initially by the Ombudsman against Estrada and company on April 4 last year, the tobacco tax case was the only one in which Mrs. Ejercito was implicated.

If the tax case is consolidated with the plunder case, an arrest warrant will be issued for the senator.

During yesterday's hearing on the plunder charge, prosecutors tried to show that the transactions involving Belle Corp. shares from which Estrada allegedly got a P189.7-million commission eventually resulted in losses for the purchaser of the shares, namely, the Social Security System.

SSS vice chair Rizaldy Capulong, on his second day on the witness stand, said that after the agency bought Belle shares on Oct. 21, 1999 at P3.14 per share, the price of the stock began to register a "general decline, with minor ups and downs."

As of Friday, he said, Belle stocks were down to 44 centavos per share.

Desierto told reporters outside the courtroom that Capulong's figures would show that in the Oct. 21 transaction alone, the SSS eventually lost P670 million.

The prosecution contends it was on Oct. 21, 1999 that the SSS carried out "instructions" from Estrada to buy Belle shares.

During his turn on the stand, former SSS chair Carlos Arellano had claimed he personally received the order from Estrada.

Defense lawyer Serafin Cuevas, however, made Capulong admit there was nothing irregular in the Belle purchases on Oct. 21.

Under Cuevas' grilling, Capulong also admitted he did not know of any "profit commission" paid to anyone from that transaction.

Also yesterday, the special court set a separate hearing on Feb. 22 on the ex-president's request to undergo knee surgery in the United States.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto challenged the defense to present California-based bone surgeon Christopher Mow, whose medical advisories were repeatedly cited by Estrada's lawyers to justify the US trip.

Mow reportedly heads the US medical team that will operate on Estrada's arthritic knees. Cuevas, however, quickly ruled out Mow's appearance in court.

The court left it to the defense panel to back up its petition on the matter with "testimonial evidence."

Two of the Estradas' doctors, meantime, could face contempt charges for failing to meet the deadline for submitting their medical reports on Jinggoy's condition.

Malaysian terror suspect cleared

By Norman Bordadora

HE may be a sympathizer of Osama bin Laden but he is not a member of the al-Qaida terrorist network nor any of its satellite organizations, immigration officials said of the Malaysian who was arrested last week with 104 passports and P57,000.

The immigration department yesterday confirmed that it had found no evidence to link Azmi Bin Salleh's links to Bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

But Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said Azmi would be expelled for violating customs regulations setting a $10,000 limit on the amount of foreign currency that a traveler can take out of the country.

"(Azmi) will be deported to Malaysia not for being a terrorist but for trying to spirit out $50,000 in violation of this country's laws and engaging in gainful occupation here without the proper visa," Domingo said.

She said the Malaysian's claim that he was a mere travel agent facilitating the issuance of visas for Muslim pilgrims to Mecca had checked out after a thorough investigation was made on his character and background.

A source from the PNP-Aviation Security Group said over the weekend that the US Embassy had expressed an interest in interviewing the Malaysian.

Police had said that they suspected Azmi of being a member of the radical Muslim group Jemaah Islamiya, and that the passports were for use of al-Qaida network after they fled Afghanistan.

Domingo said Azmi told investigators he was a sympathizer of Bin Laden but denied any involvement with al-Qaida.

Azmi was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport late Thursday as he was about to board a Kuwaiti Airlines flight for Bangkok. ***With a report from Reuters***

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Pardo bows out; 4 other SC justices to follow suit

By Michael Lim Ubac

SUPREME Court Associate Justice Bernardo Pardo retired from the high court yesterday, the first in a year that will see the departure of five justices from the high tribunal.

Besides Pardo, four other justices of the 15-member tribunal will be retiring this year, allowing President Macapagal-Arroyo the rare chance to fill the high court with her own appointees.

By the time her term ends in 2004, majority of the high court justices would be appointees of Ms Macapagal.

Pardo had turned 70 yesterday, the mandatory retirement age for Supreme Court justices. He served as SC justice for three years and four months.

The other SC justices retiring this year are: Associate Justices Arturo Buena (March 25), Jose A.R. Melo (May 30), Sabino de Leon Jr. (June 9) and Santiago Kapunan (Aug. 12).

Except for Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, who was appointed by Ms Macapagal on Oct. 22, the bench is composed of appointees of former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

A native of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, Pardo began his 40-year career in the government in 1962, when he was appointed solicitor by then President Diosdado Macapagal, the President's father.

Pardo's colleagues in the bench, led by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., his close friends and family members honored him at a dinner at the Manila Hotel last Thursday.

Aside from a plaque of appreciation signed by all the SC justices, Pardo was given the traditional retirement tokens like the SC flag, pin, seal, photo album, pen, book of decisions, brass shingle, judicial robe, Philippine flag, watch and ring.

Pardo was Estrada's first appointee to the SC in 1998, making him the 142nd justice to be appointed to the high court since its founding in 1901.

In its tribute, the SC hailed Pardo as one of the high tribunal's most "prolific decision writers."

It said he penned 450 "extended decisions in his three years and four months stay in the SC, a tribute to his mastery of law, writing prowess and unrelenting industry."

Among his landmark *ponencia* (decisions) was the Heirs of Ragua et al vs Court of Appeals et al., where he annulled a reconstituted title covering 439 hectares of prime land, known as the Diliman Estate, after 35 years of litigation.

Late last year, he wrote the SC ruling suspending and penalizing Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena for racking up a backlog of 400 cases.

He also authored a resource textbook, the "1985 Rules on Criminal Procedure."

An alumnus of the University of Sto. Tomas College of Law, he began his career in government in 1962 as a solicitor at the Office of the Solicitor General. Twelve years later, he became acting judge in the City Court of Manila.

He was appointed judge of the Court of First Instance of Rizal, Caloocan in 1964, then regional trial court judge of Manila in 1974.

In March 1993, he became a Court of Appeals associate justice until Feb. 16, 1995.

A year before his appointment to the appellate court, he received the coveted Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano Award as the country's Most Oustanding Regional Trial Court Judge.

From 1995 to 1998, he was the chair of the Commission on Elections. It was Pardo who supervised the 1995 national and local elections, the 1997 barangay elections and the 1998 presidential polls.

It was also during his watch at the Comelec that the use of automated vote counting machines was pilot-tested during the 1996 regional elections in Mindanao.

In 1997, he was conferred the Gintong Ama award.

He and the former Zenaida C. de Dios have three daughters and a son.

China concerned over jailed fishers

BEIJING—China on Monday expressed concern over 95 Chinese fishermen detained off the western Philippine island of Palawan on charges of illegal fishing and facing up to 20 years in jail.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Kong Quan said the Chinese government was "very concerned" about the matter, the state Xinhua news agency reported.

"The Chinese side hopes the Philippine side will give the detained Chinese fishermen their deserved humanitarian treatment according to international norms and fairly, appropriately handle this case," Kong said.

Kong added that China's consul general had met with Philippine foreign ministry officials to request Manila provide information on the case.

The 95 Chinese men, all from the southern island province of Hainan, were arrested this month when the Philippine Navy caught them fishing aboard four boats near the Tubbataha Reefs in the Sulu Sea, a protected marine sanctuary east of Palawan. One other boat fled.

The fishing boats were found to be carrying cyanide and dynamite and the men could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted of illegal fishing, Philippine authorities said.

The Philippine Navy detained 21 other Chinese men who sailed into waters off Palawan nine days later. Kong did not mention their case. *AFP*

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Health chief reports 'tremendous success' in new-polio drive

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday said that from initial reports, the health department succeeded in administering the oral polio vaccine to 78 percent of the 12 million children targeted in the first round of the vaccination program.

But even if they were 2.7 million short of their target, Dayrit and representatives of foreign donor agencies that took part in the program said it was a "tremendous success."

World Health Organization and Unicef officials are even planning to use the Department of Health's "door-to-door" program as a model for similar programs in other countries.

"We attribute the success to two factors. For one, people really wanted their children immunized. Secondly, we were carrying the vaccines door-to-door, it was a tremendous thing for them," said Dayrit, who traveled around the country to oversee the vaccination drive.

But he admitted that health workers encountered difficulties in some areas in Binondo and Mindanao where the kidnapping problem remains serious.

But generally people "opened their doors to our *patak* (vaccination) teams," Dayrit said.

He said the physical distance of the places to be covered gave their 67,000 volunteers a big problem.

"In the areas that really needed to have high coverage like Metro Manila, we were hitting a hundred percent," he said. "It's beyond expectation." ***Armand N. Nocum***

NEWSBRIEFS

Teachers' training

AN INNOVATIVE training program for basic education teachers will be launched this summer by the Southeast Asia Interdisciplinary Development Institute (SAIDI) in cooperation with the NTI/TC of Columbia University-New York and the First Asia Institute of Technology and the Humanities (FAITH).

Targeting new teachers with one to three years experience, the 10-month certificate program in instruction development and technology involves a two-week face-to-face training from April 8 to 20 in Tanauan, Batangas; a nine-month online exchange from June 2002 to March 2003, and another two-week face-to-face training in the summer of 2003.

Interested parties may call SAIDI at tel. 658-9302, 658-1010 (fax) or through email at saidi@diwamail.com.

Librarians' workshop

INFORMATION consolidation and repackaging will be tackled in a seminar workshop for librarians and information professionals to be conducted by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPLSAA) in Baguio City on Feb. 18-20.

The seminar workshop will enable participants to gain awareness of the importance of the use and management of information resources, including the analysis and repackaging of information into various usable formats and facilitating their timely dissemination through conventional and electronic channels.

Resource speakers include Dr. Francis J. Devadason, director of the Center for Library and Information Resources, Asian Institute of Technology of Bangkok, Thailand.

Pediatric residents wanted

THE QUEZON City General Hospital-Department of Pediatrics is accepting applications for first year residency training.

Interested pediatricians may submit their credentials at the personnel office at the QCGH, 3rd Floor, Seminary Road, Edsa, Quezon City. Deadline for submission is Feb. 27.

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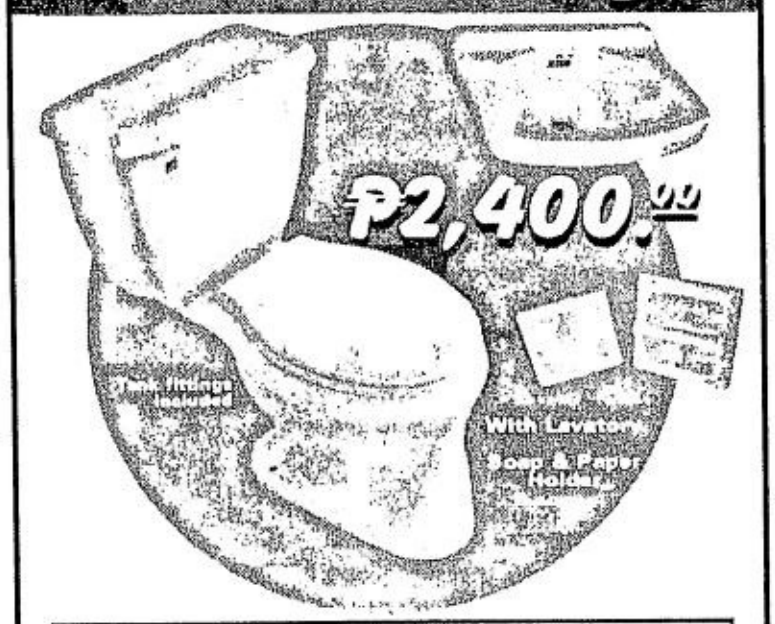

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Senators' walkout snags Camacho OK

From page A1

acted on by the 25-member CA meeting in plenary session.

The minority senators stressed, however, that the walkout affected only yesterday's session.

The Senate session was suspended after majority senators attending the CA executive session proceeded with the confirmation of Camacho, then still under intense questioning by Oreta in the CA hearing conducted by the subcommittee on finance.

Because the CA continued with the hearing, the five majority senators in the subcommittee—Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda, Noli de Castro, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Ralph Recto and Renato Cayetano—failed to be present in the early part of the Senate session, prompting its suspension.

When the Senate session resumed, however, the minority senators refused to come back, prompting Sen. Juan Flavier, who was then presiding, to adjourn the session.

Pimentel said that Senate tradition dictated that a CA hearing or any other Senate committee hearings should be deferred when the Senate is already in session.

But reached for comment, Drilon said that the majority senators did not break any Senate rules, including the one which provides that all committee hearings be deferred in time of plenary session.

"The Rules of the Senate says no committee can hold session during plenary but Rules of the Senate does not apply to CA as it is not a committee of the Senate, being a constitutional body," Drilon explained.

Immediate confirmation

Pimentel said it was unfortunate that the Senate leadership did not show its independence from Malacañang, which had been pushing for the immediate confirmation of Camacho.

Angara said the incident was "quite disturbing" because it was the second time that the Senate leadership committed the same mistake.

He said that a month ago, he complained about the simultaneous holding of CA hearings while the plenary session was ongoing.

Ople said he objected strongly to the "unparliamentary remarks" of Magsaysay against Oreta during the CA hearing when Magsaysay imputed ill-will and ulterior motive to Oreta's questioning. Her questions were turning the hearing into "hanky panky," he said.

"By assigning motives to her (Oreta), I think the CA broke the long-standing rule not to terminate the hearing until after all issues shall have been resolved, he said."

Oreta said that the CA, by "railroading" Camacho's appointment, was tantamount to a "kangaroo" committee. She said the move was in "poor taste."

When pressed to comment, Biazon exclaimed: "I have no words for what happened." Ople quickly butted in, saying Biazon was visibly "shocked."

Biazon said he would reserve his comments until he had settled down.

Sotto said all the "signs" indicated that the Senate would no longer be independent.

Lacson said he would call for an ethics committee investigation of Magsaysay for his "unparliamentary" and "ungentlemanly" remarks against Oreta.

For his part, Honasan said what happened was "the latest in a series of sustained assaults on the Senate" and that it had reduced the Senate into a partisan body.

Ejercito said this also confirmed the division in the Senate.

But in an interview with reporters, Drilon stressed the difference between the CA and the Senate. "I just want to set the record straight. This is a hearing of the committee of the CA, composed of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. It had nothing to do with the Senate nor the chamber's independence or dignity."

A reporter asked Drilon: "Will the railroad push through on Wednesday?" Drilon retorted: "What do you mean railroad? If you look at the records, there were six hearings conducted. Now you call that a railroad?"

Direct involvement?

At the CA hearing, Oreta questioned Camacho on his alleged "direct involvement" in the negotiations for the issuance of the P35-billion Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates, or PEACe bonds, which benefited an umbrella organization of nongovernment organizations chaired by his sister, Marissa Camacho-Reyes.

Oreta noted that Camacho had admitted being given "full presidential powers" to authorize the issuance of the zero-coupon debt instruments last Oct. 1, "or almost a month after he claimed to have inhibited himself from discussions about the bond float."

Oreta also noted that Camacho admitted that he had hosted a meeting to discuss the PEACe bonds between officials of the Bureau of Treasury and officers of the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), where he expressed his support for the auction of the instruments.

Camacho also admitted signing a letter he sent to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas a month before the Oct. 16 auction of the PEACe bonds, informing the BSP that CODE-NGO's application for secondary reserve eligibility was sufficient and that the group does not wish to pursue its eligibility under the Agri-Agra law.

"If he already inhibited himself, why did the full presidential powers authorizing the PEACe bonds sale transmitted to Camacho and not to his undersecretary, Cornelio Gison, considering that this was not merely a routine matter because of the possible conflict of interest involved?" Oreta asked in a statement.

She charged that Camacho's admission showed that there were "not just one but three smoking guns pointing to Camacho's involvement in shaping the deal that hauled in P1.4 billion for the civil society group chaired by his sister."

But despite Oreta's opposition, she was eventually outvoted by the majority who acted on a motion filed by Sen. Robert Barbers to finally submit Camacho's confirmation to the CA plenary for approval.

It was earlier reported that the House panel had received "marching orders" from Speaker Jose de Venecia to solidly back Camacho's confirmation.

Pimentel rapped Camacho for his "lack of *delicadeza*" for not resigning in the midst of the CODE-NGO controversy.

"*Delicadeza* in public office is not about one's guilt or innocence. It is about the person's sense of propriety, proportion and decorum whenever his or her official actuations are under question," Pimentel said.

Business community

Camacho, however, heaved a sigh of relief that the subcommittee hearing was over.

"I am so happy and I hope that the members of the plenary would view my confirmation positively," Camacho said. He admitted he was at a loss for words and remained dazed minutes after he was confirmed.

"There is so much work to do and now that the CA had decided to endorse my confirmation, I could focus more on my job," Camacho said. He had looked disturbed the whole time he was under questioning.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the subcommittee, said the decision of the CA was a positive move for the country. "Secretary Camacho's confirmation is positive news not only for the business community but also for the entire country," he said.

Members of the private sector joined officials and employees of the Department of Finance and the National Power Corp. in cheering for Camacho yesterday.

Seen in the gallery were former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia Jr.; Vivian Yuchengco, governor of the Philippine Stock Exchange; bankers Jose Simpao of Security Bank and Nilo Pacheco of International Exchange Bank, Camacho's former colleagues in Deutsche Bank; and investment bankers Simon Paterno of JP Morgan Chase and Joel Consing of HSBC.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Miguel Varela and Philippine Exporters Confederation head Sergio Ortiz-Luis were also present, together with Raul Concepcion of the Federation of Philippine Industries and Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club.

"We need Camacho to help boost our economy. He is very well respected in the financial community, be it foreign or local," said Concepcion.

The head of Concepcion Industries said he had heard foreign investors complain that the delay in Camacho's confirmation had dented the confidence that the new administration was starting to rebuild.

Linda Olaguer-Montayre, secretary general of the People's Consultative Assembly was the lone oppositor to Camacho's confirmation yesterday. Olaguer said the CA should not confirm Camacho because of his "unethical decision-making related to the issuance of 10-year zero coupon bonds last year was "hypocritical."

'Assassin' mars GMA visit for Javier's 16th death anniversary

From page A1

Barangay 5, in this capital town.

The PSG members found a seven-and-a-half-inch knife hidden in the suspect's hip. Polo, who was wearing khaki pants, a vest and a cap, did not resist arrest.

Despite the knife-wielding incident, the President went on foot to the Evelio Javier Memorial Auditorium, about 250 meters from Freedom Park, where she laid a wreath at Javier's monument. She was joined at the wreath-laying by Education Secretary Raul Roco, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, and local officials led by Rep. Exequiel Javier and Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez.

Speaking before Antiqueños for the first time since she assumed the presidency, Ms Macapagal hailed Javier, once governor of the province, as "one of the heroes of the country."

She also turned over checks amounting to P1 million to assist victims of Typhoon "Nanang" and P40 million to Air Transportation Assistant Secretary Adelberto Yap for the improvement of the Antique airport.

Javier, then 43, was gunned down in broad daylight on Feb. 11, 1986 by heavily armed men at the public plaza during the canvassing of votes for the snap presidential election. Four bystanders were injured. Javier's death hastened the collapse of the Marcos dictatorship, which culminated in the People Power I uprising two weeks later.

The President said the annual commemoration of Javier's death, a non-working holiday in Panay Island since 1987, is part of the 40-day celebration of People Power I and II from Jan. 16 to Feb. 25 she had instituted.

TIGHT security does not keep schoolchildren from trying to get a peep of the President during commemorative rites for Evelio Javier. EDWIN BACASMAS

No threat

The PSG members arrested Polo at around 10:20 a.m. as he was about to climb over the fence and enter an area near the helicopter landing zone inside the Evelio B. Javier Sports Complex. He is now detained at the San Jose police station.

One report said he had tried to break free as police grabbed him and sounded incoherent when a reporter asked him who he was.

"I don't know what my name is," he answered, before police hauled him away.

"(Polo) was not a threat to the security of the President," said Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, Western Visayas police director.

Idio, after talking with Polo's parents, said Polo was a mental retardate since he was 3 years old. He reportedly suffered a drug overdose after he was involved in an accident.

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"The conclusion of the PSG is that he is a psychologically disturbed person. He was only carrying a 100-millimeter-long knife. He did not carry a gun. So the PSG commander said it's very unlikely that he's an assassin," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters in Malacañang.

"There's no problem," he added. San Jose sources said the knife measured seven and a half inches from the tip of the blade to the top of the handle.

Tiglao said Polo had tried to pass himself off as a police officer.

"He sounded like a psychologically disturbed person when interviewed. He said he wanted to see the President and he was attracted by the helicopters," Tiglao said.

"The man appeared to be retarded and we think he did not intend to harm the President. He was just too excited to welcome the President," Esperon said, adding the man surrendered without a fight.

Esperon ruled out the possibility the suspect was a member of a communist insurgent group active in Western Visayas.

"There is no need to add security," he said.

THE MAN who didn't know his name—it's Berlie Polo—is subdued by police five minutes before the President's arrival in San Jose, Antique. EDWIN BACASMAS

The incident was hardly noticed by thousands of Antiqueños who waited for the President's arrival.

Elusive justice

In her speech, the President said that "justice still evades Evelio" even after 16 years.

She said the masterminds of the killing, including those still at large, must be brought to justice.

Former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, a close Marcos ally, has been tagged as the mastermind of Javier's killing. He is facing murder, frustrated murder and attempted murder charges along with 14 others before the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12 presided by Judge Rudy Castrojas.

Pacificador maintains his innocence. "In the long run I will be vindicated," said Pacificador, who is detained at the provincial jail at the Binirayan Hills here along with the other suspects.

He said that while Javier's family was commemorating Evelio's 16th death anniversary, he was "commemorating 16 years of Calvary."

"It is unbearable especially to be separated from my family," Pacificador said.

Ms Macapagal disclosed that she had asked the help of Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien in her visit there this month to speed up the extradition of Pacificador's son, Rodolfo, who is seeking political asylum in Canada where he fled after the killing.

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The President's frustration with the case was shared by Evelio Javier's family.

"Justice has been dissipated," said the slain governor's 31-year-old son, Francis Gideon. "After 16 years, you lose hope in anything," he said.

But Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier, younger brother of Evelio, said he was confident that the case would be resolved in their favor. ***With reports from Reuters, AFP***

Chavit confirms reporter kidnapped

From page A1

Her kidnappers, according to Singson, are demanding P40 million for her release but "they need P500,000 immediately."

Singson said De la Cruz called him on Friday asking for his help. "Arlyn called me up to ask for help because she said she was being held captive," Singson speaking in Filipino told the INQUIRER by telephone on Monday.

He related that De la Cruz told him that her abductors were "from the Tausug group," and not Abu Sayyaf bandits.

She also informed Singson that she was on her way to see the Abu Sayyaf when she was snatched.

Singson said he was not sure if the reporter was being held in Jolo or in Basilan where the Abu Sayyaf have held captive for night months an American missionary couple, Gracia and Martin Burnham.

Last week, Scout Rangers operating in Basilan claimed that they had found a note indicating that the Abu Sayyaf was angry with De la Cruz for not giving them their share of an alleged $20,000 paid by a US television network for her interview with the Burnhams.

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She's had several exclusive interviews with the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas.

While the Scout Rangers suspected that the bandits had kidnapped De La Cruz, the military spokesperson of the Southern Command said it was "impossible" because of her close links with the terrorist group.

De la Cruz was last seen by her colleagues on Jan. 19 at the Garden Hotel in Zamboanga City, according to defense officials.

Last week Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes had ordered a search for her.

In a hurry

Singson described his conversation with De la Cruz as "short" as the journalist seemed to be in a hurry.

"She was talking fast and told me that she was OK," Singson said.

"When Arlyn asked me to talk to her kidnappers, I refused because I did not know what to do then. I don't want to give my word because I don't want to be compromised. When I give my word, I make sure that I will do it)," Singson said.

Though he told De la Cruz he would help, Singson admitted to the INQUIRER that he is clueless on how to go about it.

"In the first place, the P40 million that her kidnappers are demanding is too big."

Mediator

Late last year, Singson had contacted De la Cruz to help him negotiate for the surrender of Abu Sayyaf leader and spokesperson, Abu Sabaya. But the negotiation did not push through.

"Si Arlyn ang ginamit ko noon na maki-negotiate sana sa pagsuko nina Abu Sabaya at mga kidnap victims pero hindi nag-materialize dahil hindi magkasundo sa mga terms gaya ng no ransom policy ng gobyerno (I asked Arlyn to mediate the supposed surrender of Abu Sabaya and the turnover of other kidnap victims but this did not materialize because of differences in our talking terms, like the no ransom policy of the government)," he said.

Singson said De la Cruz promised to call him again soon.

Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Mindanao affairs said he had no knowledge of the reporter's talk with Singson.

AFP spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan told a news conference that the military was verifying the Chavit report.

Press Secretary Noel Cabrera told Reuters, "Her status is the same. She is reported missing and we are looking into that." ***With a report from Reuters***

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From page A1

Desierto was a waste of time.

"If there is a case and the evidence against Ombudsman Desierto is strong, it should be the courts who should have jurisdiction," he said.

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According to the rules, if the House votes on the first impeachment complaint or the second impeachment complaint is brought to the Senate, then it is deemed initiated and thus would bar the initiation of another impeachment complaint against the same official in the next 12 months.

But House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the House might vote on the first impeachment complaint against Desierto as early as today. The House has until tomorrow to act on the first impeachment complaint, the end of the 10 session days given to dispose the case.

Sandoval said those who signed in support of the second impeachment complaint did so because "they want to know the truth" on the issue.

"They also wanted the scam to be investigated as government lost P5.3 billion and some even say as much as P12 billion," he added.

Maambong's rules

Gonzales maintained that the House did not commit any mistake by allowing the filing of the second impeachment complaint against Desierto, contrary to what 1986 Constitutional Commission member Regalado Maambong said the other day.

Maambong the other day said it was unconstitutional for the House to give due course to the second impeachment complaint against Desierto because it came within the one-year constitutional ban.

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Gonzales said that by defining this, the House did not commit any mistake because "the Constitution provides us the authority to promulgate our rules."

The House unanimously voted for the new impeachment rules, he added. ***With a report from Cynthia Balana***

Sex patch for women . . .

From page A1

the patch. A good relationship with a partner is also necessary, they say.

"I think it's a wonderful idea, but I also think that expectations need to be realistic," said Molly Katz, a gynecologist whose clinic will be participating in the trials.

"It isn't going to fix everybody," she said.

"Unless you have that satisfactory relationship, it's not going to make that much difference."

Large-scale testing of the patch in volunteers starts this month, one of the last stages before US Food and Drug Administration approval.

Company researchers are emphasizing that they don't want the patch seen as a "lifestyle" drug like Viagra. They want the product reserved for women with medically documented loss of libido.

While generally associated with the male sex drive, testosterone is also needed for the female response. Studies have shown that testosterone levels fall after menopause.

"We'll work very hard to label it appropriately for women who have a sexual dysfunction and see that it is prescribed only to women who need it," Mark Collar, P&G Pharmaceutical's president told The Cincinnati Enquirer.

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Senators' walkout snags Camacho OK

From page A1

acted on by the 25-member CA meeting in plenary session.

The minority senators stressed, however, that the walkout affected only yesterday's session.

The Senate session was suspended after majority senators attending the CA executive session proceeded with the confirmation of Camacho, then still under intense questioning by Oreta in the CA hearing conducted by the subcommittee on finance.

Because the CA continued with the hearing, the five majority senators in the subcommittee—Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda, Noli de Castro, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Ralph Recto and Renato Cayetano—failed to be present in the early part of the Senate session, prompting its suspension.

When the Senate session resumed, however, the minority senators refused to come back, prompting Sen. Juan Flavier, who was then presiding, to adjourn the session.

Pimentel said that Senate tradition dictated that a CA hearing or any other Senate committee hearings should be deferred when the Senate is already in session.

But reached for comment, Drilon said that the majority senators did not break any Senate rules, including the one which provides that all committee hearings be deferred in time of plenary session.

"The Rules of the Senate says no committee can hold session during plenary but Rules of the Senate does not apply to CA as it is not a committee of the Senate, being a constitutional body," Drilon explained.

Immediate confirmation

Pimentel said it was unfortunate that the Senate leadership did not show its independence from Malacañang, which had been pushing for the immediate confirmation of Camacho.

Angara said the incident was "quite disturbing" because it was the second time that the Senate leadership committed the same mistake.

He said that a month ago, he complained about the simultaneous holding of CA hearings while the plenary session was ongoing.

Ople said he objected strongly to the "unparliamentary remarks" of Magsaysay against Oreta during the CA hearing when Magsaysay imputed ill-will and ulterior motive to Oreta's questioning. Her questions were turning the hearing into "hanky panky," he said.

"By assigning motives to her (Oreta), I think the CA broke the long-standing rule not to terminate the hearing until after all issues shall have been resolved, he said."

Oreta said that the CA, by "railroading" Camacho's appointment, was tantamount to a "kangaroo" committee. She said the move was in "poor taste."

When pressed to comment, Biazon exclaimed: "I have no words for what happened." Ople quickly butted in, saying Biazon was visibly "shocked."

Biazon said he would reserve his comments until he had settled down.

Sotto said all the "signs" indicated that the Senate would no longer be independent.

Lacson said he would call for an ethics committee investigation of Magsaysay for his "unparliamentary" and "ungentlemanly" remarks against Oreta.

For his part, Honasan said what happened was "the latest in a series of sustained assaults on the Senate" and that it had reduced the Senate into a partisan body.

Ejercito said this also confirmed the division in the Senate.

But in an interview with reporters, Drilon stressed the difference between the CA and the Senate. "I just want to set the record straight. This is a hearing of the committee of the CA, composed of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. It had nothing to do with the Senate nor the chamber's independence or dignity."

A reporter asked Drilon: "Will the railroad push through on Wednesday?" Drilon retorted: "What do you mean railroad? If you look at the records, there were six hearings conducted. Now you call that a railroad?"

Direct involvement?

At the CA hearing, Oreta questioned Camacho on his alleged "direct involvement" in the negotiations for the issuance of the P35-billion Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates, or PEACe bonds, which benefited an umbrella organization of nongovernment organizations chaired by his sister, Marissa Camacho-Reyes.

Oreta noted that Camacho had admitted being given "full presidential powers" to authorize the issuance of the zero-coupon debt instruments last Oct. 1, "or almost a month after he claimed to have inhibited himself from discussions about the bond float."

Oreta also noted that Camacho admitted that he had hosted a meeting to discuss the PEACe bonds between officials of the Bureau of Treasury and officers of the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), where he expressed his support for the auction of the instruments.

Camacho also admitted signing a letter he sent to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas a month before the Oct. 16 auction of the PEACe bonds, informing the BSP that CODE-NGO's application for secondary reserve eligibility was sufficient and that the group does not wish to pursue its eligibility under the Agri-Agra law.

"If he already inhibited himself, why did the full presidential powers authorizing the PEACe bonds sale transmitted to Camacho and not to his undersecretary, Cornelio Gison, considering that this was not merely a routine matter because of the possible conflict of interest involved?" Oreta asked in a statement.

She charged that Camacho's admission showed that there were "not just one but three smoking guns pointing to Camacho's involvement in shaping the deal that hauled in P1.4 billion for the civil society group chaired by his sister."

But despite Oreta's opposition, she was eventually outvoted by the majority who acted on a motion filed by Sen. Robert Barbers to finally submit Camacho's confirmation to the CA plenary for approval.

It was earlier reported that the House panel had received "marching orders" from Speaker Jose de Venecia to solidly back Camacho's confirmation.

Pimentel rapped Camacho for his "lack of *delicadeza*" for not resigning in the midst of the CODE-NGO controversy.

"*Delicadeza* in public office is not about one's guilt or innocence. It is about the person's sense of propriety, proportion and decorum whenever his or her official actuations are under question," Pimentel said.

Business community

Camacho, however, heaved a sigh of relief that the subcommittee hearing was over.

"I am so happy and I hope that the members of the plenary would view my confirmation positively," Camacho said. He admitted he was at a loss for words and remained dazed minutes after he was confirmed.

"There is so much work to do and now that the CA had decided to endorse my confirmation, I could focus more on my job," Camacho said. He had looked disturbed the whole time he was under questioning.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the subcommittee, said the decision of the CA was a positive move for the country. "Secretary Camacho's confirmation is positive news not only for the business community but also for the entire country," he said.

Members of the private sector joined officials and employees of the Department of Finance and the National Power Corp. in cheering for Camacho yesterday.

Seen in the gallery were former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia Jr.; Vivian Yuchengco, governor of the Philippine Stock Exchange; bankers Jose Simpao of Security Bank and Nilo Pacheco of International Exchange Bank, Camacho's former colleagues in Deutsche Bank; and investment bankers Simon Paterno of JP Morgan Chase and Joel Consing of HSBC.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Miguel Varela and Philippine Exporters Confederation head Sergio Ortiz-Luis were also present, together with Raul Concepcion of the Federation of Philippine Industries and Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club.

"We need Camacho to help boost our economy. He is very well respected in the financial community, be it foreign or local," said Concepcion.

The head of Concepcion Industries said he had heard foreign investors complain that the delay in Camacho's confirmation had dented the confidence that the new administration was starting to rebuild.

Linda Olaguer-Montayre, secretary general of the People's Consultative Assembly was the lone oppositor to Camacho's confirmation yesterday. Olaguer said the CA should not confirm Camacho because of his "unethical decision-making related to the issuance of 10-year zero coupon bonds last year was "hypocritical."

'Assassin' mars GMA visit for Javier's 16th death anniversary

From page A1

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NAIA Terminal III Stakeholders Present
the Real Issue on DOTC-PIATCO Contract

We Stand United Against Corruption and the Deliberate Disinformation Campaign Against the Philippine Public.

Many news stories have come out recently in media, which are part of a desperate effort to mislead the public into believing that DOTC Secretary-Designate Pantaleon Alvarez had a change of heart – and therefore deserves public support. Nothing is farther from the truth.

Mr. Alvarez has proven many times that he is capable of saying something one moment, and doing the opposite a day or two later.

To combat this, we want to state once and for all the real positions currently held by the parties grossly affected by the DOTC-PIATCO Concession Agreement for NAIA Terminal III:

Labor:

"Nais naming ang aming kasalukuyang kompanya ay makapag-operate sa Terminal III para sa ikasisiguro ng aming trabaho at mapanatag kaming hindi mababawasan ang kasalukuyang sahod na aming tinatanggap.

Ipaglalaban namin ito hanggang sukdulan para sa kinabukasan ng aming pamilya — lalo't ang kinabukasan ng aming mga anak — ang nakasalalay." ("We want our present employers to operate at NAIA Terminal III to ensure our jobs and our security of tenure. We want to be assured that our present compensation package will not be diminished. We will fight to the bitter end — as the future of our families — especially our children, is at stake.")

Ed Oredina
Chairman, Mobilization Committee
PAL Employees Association

Antonio V. Policarpio
Vice President
National Labor Union

Demosthenes Agan, Jr.
President
MIASCOR Workers Union

Central Luzon Provinces:

"We have no confidence in the promises of Sec. Alvarez. He has failed us before. We know his real motive. We want to sustain the momentum of the freedom we fought for and gained in EDSA II.

We demand that Section 3.02 and Annex M of the DOTC-PIATCO Amended and Restated Concession Agreement be deleted as this is detrimental to the growth and economic development of Central Luzon provinces."

Susan Pineda
Director General
Coalition of Central Luzon NGOs

Rosemarie Herrera
President
Nutralink (NGO)

Philippine Air Lines:

"Absolutely no agreements have been reached between PAL and PIATCO. The transfer alone of PAL's international operations to Terminal III simply does not make sense for us. We need to operate in a hub for our continued viability, the convenience of our passengers, and simply cannot afford the exorbitant rates being charged by PIATCO."

Avelino L. Zapanta
President
Philippine Air Lines

MASO:

"We want the Government to respect our existing contracts and ensure that a level playing field is maintained.

We also insist that the DOTC-PIATCO Concession Contract must include provisions empowering the MIAA to regulate the concession fees, rentals, and facility charges to ensure fairness and equity. The designated exclusive airport operator simply cannot be permitted to be in a conflict of interest situation with other service providers."

Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr.
Chairman
MIAA-NAIA Association of Service Operators (MASO)

Traveling Public:

"Terminal fees should be denominated in Philippine currency (not US dollars as specified in the DOTC-PIATCO Contract) and should start with the present rate of P500 per passenger. Terminal fees should not be increased without the benefit of public hearings."

Irineo Alvaro
President
League of Councilors, Angeles City

Taxpayers:

"An overly expensive terminal makes for higher costs, which eventually ends up being paid by us, the taxpayers. The Philippine government should ensure that no overpricing is made on the construction and that no substandard materials are used.

We want to have the provisions giving PIATCO an effective GRP (Philippine government) guarantee deleted, because if PIATCO breaches on its loans, we, the taxpayers, end up paying for the loans."

Atty. Fred Mangiliman
Attorney-In-Fact of more than 300 filers of a class suit against PIATCO

We believe that Mr. Alvarez has lost all moral authority to lead the DOTC.

To the Commission on Appointments, we make this request:
Do not confirm Mr. Pantaleon Alvarez.

Once Again, We Stand United On This Issue.

advt.

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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OPINION

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Simplistic formulation

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo mimicked US President George Bush when she said last Friday that anyone opposing the presence of American forces in the country to train Filipino troops to fight the Abu Sayyaf is "not a Filipino." She added: "If you are not a Filipino, then who are you? A protector of terrorists, a cohort of murderers, an Abu Sayyaf lover."

She also said that it was time to know who were on the side of "security, peace and development for the Filipino" and who were "with the Abu Sayyaf and continued disorder in Basilan and Mindanao."

Note how Ms Macapagal's language imitates that of Bush. He said in an address to the US Congress last Sept. 21: "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists. He added that "any nation that continues to harbor or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime."

Bush's speech went over big with the US Congress and the American public because he delivered it 10 days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that left about 6,500 people dead or missing. His speech has been compared to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "day of infamy" speech to the US Congress a day after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and propelled America to World War II.

The circumstances surrounding President Macapagal's *somos o no somos* speech cannot be compared to those obtaining when Bush made his speech before the US Congress. The situation in the Philippines is different from that in the United States. Ms Macapagal's speech is simplistic, reducing everything to black and white. In the case of the Philippines, there are gradations of black, white and gray. If one opposes the presence of US forces in the Philippines to train local troops to fight the Abu Sayyaf, it does not necessarily mean that he is pro-terrorist and "not a Filipino."

Some are opposing the American presence on constitutional and legal grounds. Some are afraid that the Americans will trample on Philippine sovereignty. Some fear that what the nation gained when the Senate expelled the US bases in 1991 will lose its gain under the present arrangement. Some simply doubt the wisdom of the Balikatan war games.

It is wrong to say that the people and organizations that oppose the arrangement with the Americans are "anti-Filipino." To the contrary, these protesters are probably even more nationalistic and patriotic than those who would readily welcome US troops with open arms so long as they bring modern equipment and so long as they can help solve the Abu Sayyaf problem. Should we forget about sovereignty, the Constitution and national pride?

In the first place, the Abu Sayyaf, whose elimination is the whole point of the exercise, are a bandit group that should have been taken out in a police action by Filipino troops. As a matter of fact, a big Abu Sayyaf group was about to be annihilated last year when mysteriously it was able to escape through the backdoor of a hospital that was supposedly surrounded by government soldiers. To this day, it remains a big puzzle why a group of about 80 bandits cannot be captured or wiped out by 6,000 government troops in Basilan.

The President's statements have understandably stirred up a storm of outrage because it would seem as if it is only she and those toeing her line who have the right to speak out on the issue of the American presence in the Philippines. Sen. Joker Arroyo said that not even the dictator Ferdinand Marcos denied his political opponents the right to claim love of country. Here, Ms Macapagal would not even give them the benefit of the doubt.

Look at some of the people who have been vocal in denouncing the arrangement with the Americans, including former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, Nini Quezon-Avancena, Prof. Roland Simbulan, Ma. Socorro Diokno, Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran, Rep. Etta Rosales and the running priest Fr. Roberto Reyes. Are these unpatriotic Filipinos?

We are afraid President Macapagal has gone overboard in reducing the matter of American intervention into a simplistic black-and-white issue. It is something more complex than that and it involves the issues of sovereignty and constitutionality and the wisdom of the entire exercise. It is a question that cannot be resolved by name-calling or simplistic formulations.

A P4.1 billion overprice at customs?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

BY the time this comes out, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho may have already been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, but the questions I will ask here still need to be answered by him since he is the Cabinet member who supervises the Bureau of Customs. Sen. Robert Z. Barbers delivered a privilege speech in the Senate last Feb. 6 excoriating Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva for the "web of corruption" in the BOC, but Camacho got off unscathed. The most important question is why the amount recommended to be paid to the Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS) increased from P1.5 billion to P5.6 billion—or an apparent overprice of P4.1 billion!

This happened when the head of the joint BOC-SGS team reviewing the billings of SGS, Deputy Commissioner for Revenue Collection and Monitoring Emma Rosqueta was suddenly and inexplicably replaced by an outsider, a customs broker by the name of Gil Valera. Rosqueta is a career official who rose from the ranks and has no graft cases filed against her, yet she was suddenly replaced by a newcomer who has no civil service eligibility. She got a restraining order from the Manila regional trial court but the government went to the Court of Appeals which issued its own order restraining the Manila RTC from enforcing its earlier TRO.

During that time Rosqueta was out as deputy commissioner, another deputy commissioner, Julieta Manahan, was appointed as head of a reconstituted joint BOC-SGS review team. In a matter of 14 days, Manahan came up with the recommendation to pay SGS P5.6 billion, P4.1 billion more than that recommended by Rosqueta. There was no explanation on how the team arrived at this amount. Yet Villanueva immediately endorsed this to Camacho although the amount was much higher than the previous recommendation of the same review team, which he also endorsed.

Was Rosqueta replaced as deputy commissioner to pave the way for Manahan to chair the review team and increase the amount to be paid by the Philippine government to SGS? It looks that way.

When the TRO of the Court of Appeals expired and the TRO (and later the permanent injunction) of the Manila RTC took effect, Rosqueta returned to her position as deputy commissioner. But by that time, Manahan had already submitted her higher recommendations and Villanueva had already endorsed it to Camacho. This seems to explain the haste with which Manahan came up with her recommendations (she did it in 14 days). She had to beat the expiration of the CA TRO.

In spite of the court order reinstating Rosqueta, however, Valera continued to stay as deputy commissioner for revenue collection and monitoring, performing the functions of Rosqueta who, although she got back her office and title, was not given any work by Villanueva. Although Valera legally has no position in the BOC, Villanueva continued to pay him his salary and allowances with public funds and Valera continued to use the government vehicle assigned to his position. This is contempt of court and malversation of public funds. (I have written several columns about all these months ago.)

The Department of Justice and the presidential legal adviser told Malacañang that Valera's appointment should be withdrawn as it is illegal (two persons are occupying the same position—one legally, the other not) but Malacañang has not done so until now.

The finance department under Camacho should have set things aright (the BOC is an agency under it), but neither has it done so until now.

Were Valera, Manahan, Villanueva and Camacho given an assignment, which is to raise funds for the 2004 poll campaign? And is the overpayment to SGS one source of such funds?

Other circumstantial evidence fall into place. The term of Villanueva, who was supposed to have retired last year, was extended while the SGS claim was not yet settled. The extension is due to expire at the end of next March. Villanueva is reportedly moving heaven and earth to get another extension. But President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has already announced his replacement. She said she does not believe in extending the terms of office of officials. Then she turns around and extends the term of PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza. And she is not terminating the extension of the term of Manahan, who is 70 years old and should have retired five years ago.

Why the contradiction? Has Villanueva already outlived his usefulness? Has he already completed his assignment, to increase the payment of SGS and that is why he is being dropped like a hot potato?

And what about Valera? Why is he being allowed to illegally occupy a non-existing position and illegally perform the functions of Rosqueta? What will happen to all his decisions and orders when he is finally removed? They would be null and void as they were issued when Valera was an illegal occupant of a non-existent position.

If the intention was only to give a Malacañang protégé a job, why was Valera not appointed instead to the position of Deputy Commissioner Manahan who should have retired a long time ago? Instead, he was appointed to the position of Deputy Commissioner Rosqueta who is not yet retirable. Why? Because Rosqueta was the chair of the BOC-SGS review team and Manahan was not. Was that the ultimate goal: to replace Rosqueta as head of the team so that the SGS payables can be increased? This was accomplished when Manahan assumed that position.

What does Camacho say to all these?

Much ado over 'Makabayan'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I RECALL that we had a similar debate on campus more than three decades ago. The issue was also whether the university should emphasize math and the sciences and de-emphasize the arts and social studies.

We were activists then, and we opposed it with a passion befitting our vocation. We argued that except for theology, which was best left to seminarians, the other arts and social studies subjects were best left well enough alone. Math and the physical sciences, we argued, imparted valuable knowledge, but the arts and social sciences imparted even more valuable values. The first assured that the individual student would get ahead in life. The second assured that the community would get ahead in life. There was nothing to stop the student who got only knowledge and skills from leaving for abroad and using his talents there. There was nothing to stop the student who learned the value of serving the people to use his talents for the betterment of the country.

If things should change, we said, it should be in the opposite direction. More value subjects should be taught. Filled with the bravado, and impertinence, of youth, we said education then was not relevant, a word we used a great deal. This was the Age of Relevance after all: We demanded relevant education, relevant writing, even relevant relevance.

The philosophy did produce many gifted people who devoted their talents and energies to the service of the people rather than to pursuing individual careers. "Career," too, as I've had occasion to say before, was a bad word, the epithet "careerist," referring to someone who studied to get a lucrative job, particularly abroad, taking on the damning aspect of "*kaburgisan.*" But many of them succeeded only in impoverishing the people by meeting early deaths, while in the course of curing the sick, learning the unlettered, teaching the servants of the soil the science of the seasons.

I remembered this when I read about the objections posed by Courage, a group representing government workers, and several NGOs to the Department of Education's move to compress several "values" subjects into one called "Makabayan" and stressing math and the physical sciences instead. Courage and the other protesters say this will produce a bunch of skilled people who will however think like robots and join only the rat race, if not the queue at the US Embassy. They will have no sense of community, or country. They will not worship at the feet of "Inang Bayan," they will worship at the feet of globalization. They will not serve the people, they will serve themselves.

Standing a generation away from the halcyon days of my generation, I am not so sure about the wisdom of these objections. The obvious advantage of stressing math and the sciences is that it helps lessen the breathtaking knowledge gap there between us and other countries. Globalization is a reality we cannot escape. Whether we like it or not, we need to develop levels of competitiveness if we are to survive. The results of math tests among students in particular show how huge a chasm stands between us and countries like Japan and South Korea. Some teachers, of course, say that is also a function of language: Japan and South Korea teach math in Japanese and Korean while we teach it in English, forcing our kids to work twice as hard. But that is another story.

Maybe they will end up being robotic, or valueless, or lacking a sense of community or country. But—and this is where the crux of my reservations lies—I don't know that they will be any less so even if they meet with an abundance of "value courses."

Most of those who learned to take the injunction to "serve the people" seriously in my time did not learn it from schools. They learned it outside. This was a time of activist and nationalist ferment, when students studied more outside campus—in "teach-ins"—than inside it. The whole culture or political environment supported the values to be gained from the "value courses" in school. There are limits to what you can teach inside a classroom. I personally can't see how you can burn "Makabayan"—as the name of the new course indicates—values into the souls of students, whether you teach them in integrated or spread-out form, whether you teach them haphazardly or extensively, when the whole culture outside school militates against it. When the world to which the students would soon be thrust thwarts it. Which is clearly the case today: The President herself stands at the helm of the Cultural Regression.

Real education in social values doesn't happen in school, it happens outside of it. I'm not saying value courses are useless, I am saying addition doesn't naturally make for effectiveness.

I have only one caveat here. There **is** one course you can teach in school to great effect, and where it is better to err on the side of quantity than on paucity. That is Philippine history. This is a country that has very little sense of the past, if any—that is not an exaggeration—and just giving students a sense of what happened before, of the immensity of what our predecessors did, does incalculable wonders. I say this from experience. The sensation of simply knowing the events of the past, quite apart from making sense of them, as I've also had occasion to say before, is not unlike the blind being able to see for the first time, or the illiterate being able to recognize letters for the first time. It is that profoundly moving, an experience that leaves someone changed forever. You want to teach values, teach history. Although even that, most of the students of my generation learned outside of school, in the great classroom underneath the sky.

But that, too, is another story.

Not the usual noisy anti-US embassy demos

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I SINCERELY hope the President is able to appreciate the various questions that different groups are raising about the deepening US involvement here, and that she can distinguish between those who raise serious national-interest issues and those who oppose anything that involves the *Kano* in any way.

With regard to the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, there is apparent near-unanimity in the nation about wanting to obliterate it. The Abu Sayyaf has long wreaked havoc on lives and property in the southwestern part of Mindanao and destroyed any prospects of investments there. It has also dealt so much damage to our national pride. As the founding trustee of the Alay sa Kawal Foundation, the oldest NGO dedicated solely to the welfare of the common soldier, this columnist looks at it in terms of Filipino lives lost. Data available from the AFP on the Dos Palmas abduction nearly nine months ago state that AFP enlisted personnel killed in action now number 26 and wounded in action 150, apart from two officers killed and 11 wounded. In addition, 15 civilians were killed and 31 wounded in the cross-fire, although I suspect the data to be much higher. And we can be sure there will be more lives lost before the Abu Sayyaf is wiped out.

There is no question that majority of the people want the Abu Sayyaf threat destroyed once and for all, and toward that end, enlisting American help in the form of better training and equipment would be most welcome.

* * *

The anxiety over prospects of a deepening US involvement here centers mainly on how far the Philippines could be dragged into America's global campaign against anti-terrorism. Questions in this regard deserve serious answers, not name-calling and heckling. It should be pointed out that anxieties over America's war are not peculiar to this part of the world. After President Bush's speech before the US Congress condemning the "axis of evil" of North Korea, Iraq and Iran, which are said to be developing weapons of mass destruction, and his rhetoric about dividing the nations into those that are "with us or against us," some European allies expressed alarm over Bush's aggressive, go-it-alone stance. These allies are now weighing their own national interests from this perspective, indicating that Bush could become isolated. Even former Clinton officials have openly questioned the direction of the Bush administration, the first thing this happened since Sept. 11.

* * *

It is natural for thinking Filipinos to ask what the Macapagal administration has thrown into the bargain. US Pacific Commander Admiral Blair's pronouncements two weeks ago in Singapore are worthwhile pondering. The Cinpac chief told the media that the US looks upon this region as the next theater of conflict in the war against global terrorism and the inference is that the US network here will have to widen to contain the conflict, so that terrorism will never be exported to its shores once again. Since then, a number of evidence about global terrorism-related activities have been found, including the foiled plan to bomb a busload of American servicemen in Singapore and the capture of an Indonesian here with an extensive knowledge of the Bin Laden network's activities. Are Filipino interests in total consonance with US interests in this part of the world, or do they diverge at some point? What is the fork on the road? Those questions deserve serious consideration, and ought not to be classified with the protests of the usual noisy anti-US Embassy demonstrators.

* * *

Earlier I spoke of three concerts held by three different religious groups that were a welcome respite in these stress-filled weeks. I cited the healing concert staged by the Jesuit Music Ministry for those broken in body or spirit, featuring soothing religious music by well-known Jesuit composers led by Bro. Arnel Aquino. Then there was the groovy concert for peace staged by the Order of Augustinian Recoletos (OAR), which featured songs by OAR composers and those from other orders, as interpreted by OAR's "singing priests." And there was the piano concert given by the Carmelites of St. Therese at Gilmore, QC, as their way of thanking those who helped make their diamond jubilee lecture series last year a huge success. The Carmelite concert, staged right in the parlor of their convent, featured acclaimed US-based concert pianist Reynaldo Reyes interpreting works of Debussy, Chopin and Liszt, as well as our own Francisco Santiago, on a piano that his sister, Dr. Lucy de Castro, a daily communicant at the Carmelites' chapel, rented for the occasion. Reyes annotated his selections and I enjoyed it tremendously.

* * *

Later in a chat with him and his fellow concert pianist, Ingrid Sala-Santamaria, I learned that the night before they had staged an open concert at the Luneta, the last of their "outreach" two-piano concerts in a 12-day swing around the country. Santamaria and Reyes have made it their mission to bring music to the countryside and this recent tour was their second since they began last year. This time they staged concerts in Tacloban, Ormoc, Iligan, Cagayan de Oro, Tagbilaran, Cebu, Silay, Iloilo and San Jose, Antique, before winding up at the Luneta. It was a missionary endeavor. The pianists recalled that they traveled on just about every mode of transportation. Producing two pianos sometimes involved a "house-to-house search." Ingrid always sent her piano tuner from Cebu ahead to those places to make sure the pianos were okay. But the rewards in terms of audience participation were great, indicating a hunger for classical music in the countryside.

(To be continued)

Leading by 'just trying'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

CHANTHOL Oung was 8 years old when the Khmer Rouge under the leadership of Pol Pot took power in Cambodia. The event ushered in catastrophic change to the country, and for Chanthol's family, spelled tragedy and disaster. Her father died in the course of the fighting, while her younger brother died of malnutrition.

For Chanthol and other Cambodian children, the reign of Pol Pot also brought their schooling to an end. But Chanthol was fortunate that her mother was a teacher, and so during the four years that the Khmer Rouge held sway, she and her three surviving brothers were under her mother's tutelage.

By the time the forces under Heng Samrin and the Vietnamese succeeded in toppling the Khmer Rouge, Chanthol was 13 and was able to return to school. She eventually graduated from college and even went on to finish her law studies.

In the meantime, Chanthol met another lawyer whom she married when she was "just" 20. When I exclaim that she married rather young, the 35-year-old Chanthol smiles gently and reminds me that "at that time the average age for women in Cambodia to get married was 17 or 18, and even 16 in the rural areas."

Today, her husband is a fairly senior bureaucrat, director for administration of the Ministry of Land Management. Chanthol herself has worked as a translator for the Untac, as a human rights lawyer and coordinator for non-government projects on women. Fairly comfortable, raising two pre-teen daughters, Chanthol could very well have concentrated on her family and career. But she has chosen to focus much of her energies instead on the Cambodia Women's Crisis Center and the campaign against the trafficking of women in Cambodia and the region.

* * *

RECIPIENT of last year's Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership, Chanthol was the guest speaker on the first day of the Fourth Ayala Young Leaders Congress, which gathered 75 outstanding student leaders from all over the country last week to hone their leadership skills and potential. Theme of this year's gathering was "Citizen Leadership."

Chanthol's talk was titled simply "Making a Difference By Just Trying," and in many ways this is what she has done for her country and the women of Cambodia.

All her life, says Chanthol, she has been keenly aware of the inequalities between men and women in Cambodian society. Even during the extreme hardships of the Khmer Rouge era, she recalls, she and her mother bore the brunt of the household tasks, since she was "only" a daughter and housework was deemed "beneath" the status of her three brothers. She also saw instances of violence against women firsthand. "I would see my neighbors beating up their wives, and the women, having nowhere to go, had no choice but to endure the beatings."

* * *

HER work among rural women showed Chanthol the real extent of domestic violence and other forms of violence against women in her country. At the same time, the problem of trafficking and prostitution has been growing. Punishable by death during the Khmer Rouge regime, prostitution made a comeback, ironically enough, with the arrival of 22,000 Untac soldiers (including a few hundred Filipinos) in 1992. Now the government itself estimates that between 60,000 and 80,000 Cambodian women are involved in prostitution, with a significant number trafficked across the border to Thailand.

With nothing but resolve to do something about the situation, Chanthol and some friends decided in 1994 to put up a shelter for women leaving violent relationships and for survivors of trafficking and prostitution. But they couldn't get it off the ground, one of the main reasons being the skepticism of potential funders. In her talk before the AYLC, Chanthol recalled a meeting with the head of a local funding agency who asked them "if we thought we could solve all women's and children's problems in Cambodia (because) if we couldn't...he wouldn't fund our program."

After years of struggle, the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center was finally formally established in 1997 with funding from Europe. Right now, it has three regional offices and three shelters with 53 full-time staff and almost 200 volunteers. It has also raised public awareness and responses from authorities through work with the media, publications, community drama and lobbying.

* * *

IN THE COURSE of their work, Chanthol and her associates have had to face down threats and challenges, ranging from irate husbands, armed goons of brothel owners, corrupt police and local authorities, and the indifference of much of society. Even if a woman they had helped succeeded in getting a favorable verdict from a judge, she said, "it was still very difficult to enforce the verdict."

"Trafficking is just one of many, many social issues that demands our attention," Chanthol told the young leaders, reminding them that as emerging leaders, "you (should) also think about your social responsibilities" because "neither business nor academia exists outside of its social context."

"Very bright, articulate, with the potential to be good leaders," is how Chanthol described the young people she met at the AYLC. "I was impressed by their questions, and their concern inspired me," she added. Perhaps the fact that Cambodia and the Philippines face many of the same challenges, including and especially poverty and gender issues, explains the connection Chanthol felt with the young folk she interacted with. And if they felt that same connection and shared the same resolve, perhaps the future is not lost after all.

Must read: The great escape

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

FINALLY took a deep breath, choked on all those pollutants, sat down and surveyed the number of books I had managed to amass in six months. It's now or never; I figured I had better start reading and pass on to you the best way to work your way out of an economic crisis, the doldrums, a failed love affair, overweight, wrinkles—you name it. Open the pages of a book and escape.

O "Curtain Call: Selected Reviews," 1957-2000, 334 pp. Published by UP Press—Forty years of reviews by National Artist Leonor Orosa Goquingco renders a panoramic view of the cultural life of Manila from the vantage point of performances by visiting artists like sopranos Beverly Sills and Monserrat Caballe to directors Lino Brocka and Rolando Tinio to playwrights Leon Ma. Guerrero to "Vagina Monologues" where words once considered indelicate for polite society were bruited onstage. Goquingco's, with her precise and incisive prose, presents not merely reviews but a social commentary.

If one has to find fault at all with this dear artist, it is that she's too nice by half. Not one critical word. That in itself reveals something about our culture, which says that if you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything. On the other hand how will we ever improve?

O "Bones of Contention: The Bonifacio Lectures," Ambeth Ocampo, 152 pp., Anvil Publishing Inc.—Hopefully by the time this sees print, Ambeth would have accepted the directorship of the National Historical Institute and we will now see more publications and research from that government agency. In the meantime, his newest collection of lectures has been gathered into a slim volume, convenient to carry with you on a trip but disturbing in some of the questions it brings up, like: "What does 1896 teach us about the beginnings of the Filipino nation? Rape, election fraud, rigged trials, jealousy, hunger for power, intrigue, assassination, and much more."

Ouch, no wonder we've developed historical amnesia and no one is encouraged to look too deeply into the past.

However, this does not excuse the general lack of interest about the past. For people with little time on their hands, history encapsulated in short essays is one way of reading about it and not being overwhelmed by facts, figures and convoluted language.

The essays discuss issues such as where the Cry of Balintawak really took place, his search for the burial site of Bonifacio in Cavite (gory details included) and the food served at the Malolos banquet celebrating the ratification of Philippine Independence. While some may find this last subject trivial, it does provide an important detail with regard to the fare provided at Filipino banquets in the 19th century.

O "The Hills of Sampaloc: The Opening Actions of the Philippine-American War, February 4-5, 1899," Benito J. Legarda Jr., 202 pp., Bookmark.—After a splendid review by Maribel Ongpin last year, it really is difficult to add anything worth stating except that this finely annotated book with appendices, glossary, bibliography and footnotes is much more professional and enlightening than a lot of other historical publications.

Interspersed with a chronological account of the war are insights provided by Legarda that should make us question the present order of things. "The American policy of imposing English as the language of instruction ensured that future generations of Filipinos would be alienated from the sources of their history and never be able to read directly the seminal documents of their nationhood...but would have to grope through a veil of translation, no matter how diaphanous. It would lead to a partial historical amnesia that would disorient the Filipino identity that had already been achieved. And in such a climate of historical amnesia it was easy to quietly tuck away the inconvenient facets of the Philippine-American War."

To be honest, it isn't only facts regarding the Philippine-American War that have been conveniently ignored. But as it is, there are no markers except for the one on San Juan Bridge which is wrong. The first shot was fired by a Nebraskan sentry on Calle Sosiego that Legarda says authorities cannot even spell correctly. So there.

O "Bearers of Benevolence: The Thomasites and Public Education in the Philippines," ed. Mary Racelis and Judy Celine Ick, 342 pp., Anvil Publishing Inc., 2001.—This collection of 38 essays honors the Thomasites, "the American schoolteachers tasked with setting up the public school system in the Philippines under the American colonial government." August 2001 marked the centennial of their coming and it's probably one of the very few times that the phrase "the rest is history" wouldn't be an exaggeration.

Just as I'd take off my hat (if I had one) to those stout-hearted friars who braved tumultuous oceans, rampaging Muslims, typhoons, earthquakes, the Dutch, the Chinese and other calamities to evangelize the "indio," I'd salute these men and women too who believed they had a mission to bring education to their "little brown brothers." Simply, of course, because I'd never have done it. You can read this before or after Legarda's book and form your own opinion. Did the establishment and institutionalization of American-style education abort the formation of a national identity?

Muslim love

YOUNGBLOOD

Urduja

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

I DON"T have any love stories to tell. Not the usual boy-meets-girl-and-live-happily-ever-after fairy tale, anyway. For one thing, I'm not engaged (which for Muslims defines a "legal" relationship) and so I am free of any future commitment and heady ideas of connecting to the other. Neither am I married, so I don't really know how it is to have developed feelings for a partner you've met maybe only weeks before your wedding.

My idea of love used to be hazy. I considered it to be an alien concept and cringed at the thought of ever falling in love. "*Bawal ma*-in-love, *di ba?*" I once told a friend. "*Depende kung may* boyfriend *kang hindi ka rin seseryosohin,*" she gamely replied.

I believed her because I thought she ought to know. She had a seven-year relationship which didn't end up in marriage, and she vowed that next time she would commit herself only to someone who has clear intentions of marrying her later.

My early idea of love was culled from reading Mills and Boon and Danielle Steele novels. (I grew up with them in high school.) At home, we really didn't talk openly about love. All that we knew about it came from our parents' point of view: Love someone with whom you will live forever.

My parents' love story was something like that. Baba and Mama never really got to know each other well before they got married. They were neighbors in a conservative barangay in Marawi City. Baba would pretend to ignore Mama whenever she reached their house just across from Baba's own house, but in fact he couldn't get his eyes off of her. Years later, what was a crush turned into the real thing when as a young lawyer and therefore one of the more eligible Muslim bachelors he told his sisters and father to pay Mama a visit and tell her of his intentions. Their successful representation culminated in a grand traditional ceremony, with gongs and kulintangs being banged, to announce to the whole Islamic city the wedding of a princess and a professional.

Almost 30 years later, they are still together with their five children. One of us is getting married soon, after a traditional courtship done by the parents and relatives. The difference is that the guy has also courted the girl and so they know each other quite well.

Still throughout our high school and college days, there were rules we had to follow as "precautionary measures." There was a curfew. Interested males had to come and visit us at home. We could only go on group dates, and wild parties were an absolute no-no. To make sure "negative secular influences" would not stick, we were assigned an ustadz to teach us Islamic and Arabic studies.

Love was hardly ever mentioned in the various religious forums that I attended. But in one Jumaah (Friday) congregational prayer at the University of the Philippines Institute of Islamic Studies, the preacher expounded on the idea. Yes, love is very much an Islamic concept, he said. It comes in three forms: loving God, loving your fellow beings and loving Nature. It is a form of worship but only if it makes one a better *mumiin* (believer). In searching for a prospective partner, Muslims should be guided by four criteria: looks, family lineage, wealth, and above all faith, the last but overriding factor.

When I was 16, a male visitor made "*akyat sa bahay*" without even first seeing me in person. What got him interested in me was my picture sent to him by a common relative. That was funny, seeing that it happened only 10 years ago.

But come to think of it, such an arrangement can be quite convenient and useful, especially in the light of quickly established and just as quickly failed relationships I have seen among my non-Muslim friends. So the mushy, sweet nothings are cute and heart-warming. So it's better to love and be loved than never to have loved at all; and better to have fallen and learned? But when do you decide to unleash your heart for keeps? When do you say it's for real? Do we always have to go through a test, so that you can say I will do better the next time?

That early suitor of mine never got far. I became the strict *ate* to my siblings, the one who told callers to cut short their visits because my brother or sister is busy. Despite serving as adviser to lovesick friends, I acquired a reputation as an Ice Queen.

For a very long time I thought I was destined to be frustrated in love because I never really trusted myself enough to say to a prospect: "Well, yeah, you can court me and see my parents, too." It never got to even just communicating intentions since something kept holding me back. I didn't want to fall into a relationship that would fail later on but I also didn't want to be "arranged" into a marriage.

But I realized I was being naive by limiting my concept of love.

I know love now. It doesn't have to be searched, neither is it always the usual male-female bonding. The latter will come, *Inshaallah*. But love is everywhere and maybe we're not really loving enough since there is Someone who loves us always. Sure we can't see Him, but He's always there to pick us up when we trip and fall. And I think He is the one doing the search for us. When I do decide to get mushy, who knows, he could be for keeps.

Urduja, 26, is an artist who believes in reconciling destiny and free will.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . . ?

Mark Jimenez's extradition

BUSINESSMAN Mark Jimenez, now the representative of Manila's sixth district in Congress, is facing extradition to the United States. The Department of Justice filed a petition for extradition before the Manila Regional Trial Court on March 18, 2001 upon request by the US government. The case was raffled off to the sala of Judge Guillermo Purganan of Branch 42.

The US request is in accordance with the Extradition Treaty between the two countries signed on Nov. 22, 1996. Jimenez has been charged in the US with tax evasion, wire fraud, conspiracy and illegal contributions to the presidential campaign of former US President Bill Clinton.

A Supreme Court decision on Oct. 17, 2000 stressed that it is "implicit in the treaties (that there) should be an unbending commitment that the perpetrators of the crimes will not be coddled by the State." Jimenez moved for reconsideration on Nov. 29 but the Court denied it on Feb. 7, 2001. This removed all legal obstacles to the processing of his extradition which led to the filing of the petition with the Manila RTC.

Jimenez asked the RTC not to issue a warrant of arrest against him. But after a series of hearings and the presentation of several documents by both parties, the court issued a warrant for his arrest on July 3, 2001 and recommended a bail of P1 million. He immediately posted bail.

On Aug. 31, the court ordered the DOJ to mark its exhibits and to file its formal offer of evidence and memorandum not later than 30 days after the termination of the markings.

The DOJ filed its formal offer of evidence and memorandum last Jan. 5. Jimenez received his copy two days later but argued that it did not include a copy of the marked exhibits.

Case status: The court has ordered Jimenez to start marking his exhibits and to file his formal offer of evidence and memorandum 30 days after the termination of the markings. ***Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department***

Time has vindicated anti-bases stand

GABRIELA would like to express its outrage over the statement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo disregarding the snowballing protest against Balikatan 02-1 as "all rhetoric reminiscent of the old bases debate and the debate on Vietnam."

Time has proven that our stand against the US bases was correct. Thousands of women have been prostituted in Clark and Subic. Girls as young as 3 years old had been pimped to US servicemen by child prostitution rings. More than a hundred sexual abuse cases were filed and a significant number of cases of HIV infection were reported in these areas while the US bases were still around.

These are not mere data. These are human lives that have been destroyed.

Several toxic waste victims have already died and hundreds of Amerasian children have been abandoned.

The President cannot dismiss these social costs as "all rhetoric." The United States has not accepted responsibility in cleaning up the toxic wastes which were left in the former US bases in Clark Air Base and in Subic Naval Base. Neither has it done anything to facilitate support for Amerasian children left by US servicemen after the bases were evicted in 1991.

In the past two years, following the approval of the Visiting Forces Agreement, several lives have been lost in "accidental" explosions of artillery left at Balikatan sites. Crimes and abuses by US servicemen were also reported.

History has taught us that in more ways than one, our "hospitality" has been exploited by the US military in our country and the people responded by throwing them out. The President would do well not to spurn history as mere rhetoric. History has also taught us that presidents who do not heed the growing protests of the people have been ousted by the people. She should learn from it.—**EMMI DE JESUS, deputy secretary general, Gabriela (a national alliance of women's organizations), 35 Scout Delgado St., Bgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City**

Country needs greater stability

WHAT is wrong with some of our people? Why are they rising up against our President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in protest? Why are they doing these things which bring distrust and disgrace upon our nation?

The world is watching us. Can we not be at peace, and trust and support the Macapagal administration, or at least give it a chance to succeed? The protests started only weeks after she took office.

These people do not seem to understand that what they are doing will have a direct effect on our national economy. They don't seem to think, or care, what will happen to their fellow citizens or even to themselves. Protesting, like they have been doing, has no positive side and will only bring panic and disorder. We need some stability in our country; we had so much unrest in the few years of the old administration.

President Macapagal has only been in office for a year, in what is one of the hardest jobs in the world. I stand behind her administration for many reasons, one being that she has been lowering the number of people who are poor. The Estrada administration took little interest in the people and their plight. Poverty and hardship were widespread in our country.

I hope these misguided people will stop their protests against our President, so that we will have a peaceful country and avoid misunderstandings among our fellow citizens.

President Macapagal is a good and honest woman, and the mother of the people of the Philippines. We the children must respect her and trust her, and pledge our support for her administration. We are a proud nation and we must love President Macapagal as we love our land and our heritage, since she represents us all. She is the best leader we have had in many years, and in the years to come she will take us forward to a brighter future.—**CHARMAINE A. AYSON, Holy Angel University, Angeles City, Pampanga**

THE REAL SCORE

We thank Cebu Pacific for showing to the public the resolution of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) which proves the grant of two flight frequencies on the Cebu-Seoul route to Philippine Airlines:

In re:
PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, INC.
Urgent Petition for Temporary Allocation of RP–Korea Frequency Entitlements to PAL

But why did Cebu Pacific conveniently forget the corresponding CAB Resolution that would have proven to all and sundry that it "OWNS" the new RP-Korea flight frequencies?

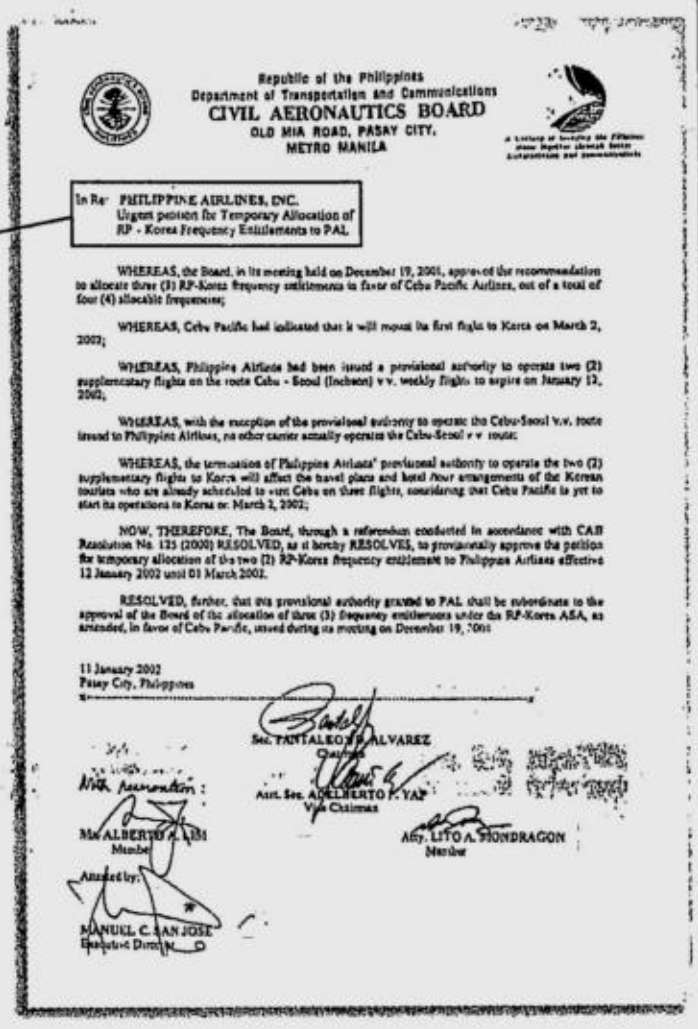
It did not because the issue has yet to be resolved by the CAB up to this day. In fact, the issue was set for deliberation for the third time during the January 28 meeting of the CAB, but nothing came out of it.

Agenda Item No. KK
PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, INC.
Urgent Motion for Reconsideration of the Allocation of the Additional RP-Korea Frequencies

The CAB has again scheduled the same issue for hearing on February 13, wherein hopefully the issue will be resolved once and for all.

Therefore:

WHAT IS NOT YET GIVEN CANNOT BE OWNED;
WHAT IS NOT YET OWNED CANNOT BE LOANED.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY,
METRO MANILA

In Re: PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, INC.
Urgent petition for Temporary Allocation of RP - Korea Frequency Entitlements to PAL

WHEREAS, the Board, in its meeting held on December 19, 2001, approved the recommendation to allocate three (3) RP-Korea frequency entitlements in favor of Cebu Pacific Airlines, out of a total of four (4) allocable frequencies;

WHEREAS, Cebu Pacific had indicated that it will mount its first flight to Korea on March 2, 2002;

WHEREAS, Philippine Airlines had been issued a provisional authority to operate two (2) supplementary flights on the route Cebu - Seoul (Incheon) v-v, weekly flights to expire on January 12, 2002;

WHEREAS, with the exception of the provisional authority to operate the Cebu-Seoul v-v, route issued to Philippine Airlines, no other carrier actually operates the Cebu-Seoul v-v route;

WHEREAS, the termination of Philippine Airlines' provisional authority to operate the two (2) supplementary flights to Korea will affect the travel plans and hotel /tour arrangements of the Korean tourists who are already scheduled to visit Cebu on these flights, considering that Cebu Pacific is yet to start its operations to Korea on March 2, 2002;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Board, through a referendum conducted in accordance with CAB Resolution No. 125 (2000) RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVES, to provisionally approve the petition for temporary allocation of the two (2) RP-Korea frequency entitlement to Philippine Airlines effective 12 January 2002 until 01 March 2002.

RESOLVED, further, that this provisional authority granted to PAL shall be subordinate to the approval of the Board of the allocation of three (3) frequency entitlements under the RP-Korea ASA, as amended, in favor of Cebu Pacific, issued during its meeting on December 19, 2001

11 January 2002
Pasay City, Philippines

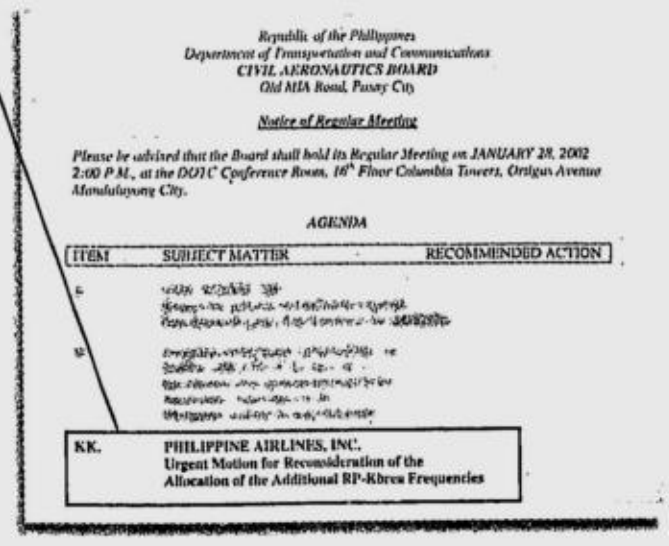
Sec. PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Chairman

Asst. Sec. ADELBERTO P. YAP
Vice Chairman

Atty. LITO A. MONDRAGON
Member

Mr. ALBERTO A. LIM
Member

Attested by:
MANUEL C. SAN JOSE
Executive Director



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
Old MIA Road, Pasay City

Notice of Regular Meeting

Please be advised that the Board shall hold its Regular Meeting on JANUARY 28, 2002 2:00 P.M., at the DOTC Conference Room, 16th Floor Columbia Towers, Ortigas Avenue Mandaluyong City.

AGENDA

ITEM	SUBJECT MATTER	RECOMMENDED ACTION
KK.	PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, INC. Urgent Motion for Reconsideration of the Allocation of the Additional RP-Korea Frequencies	

WHICH IS MORE FAIR?

Philippine Airlines
www.philippineairlines.com

'Ha Ha Po Pi'

THE NATIONAL Catholic Reporter describes the event held under a huge prayer tent in Assisi last Jan. 24 thus: "Imams in turbans, Sikh clergy with flowing white beards, and Buddhist monks with saffron robes and shaved heads joined a gaggle of Catholic cardinals, Orthodox patriarchs and Protestant ministers."

PINOY KASI

Michael Tan

The occasion was a meeting, organized by the Vatican, of 150 representatives from a dozen world religions. The meeting was a response to perceptions that religions have divided humanity and catalyzed acts of terrorism such as the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

A statement issued during the meeting read: "Violence and terrorism are incompatible with the authentic spirit of religion...As we condemn every recourse to violence and war in the name of God or religion, we commit ourselves to doing everything possible to eliminate the root causes of terrorism."

Sadly, preparations for the meeting were marred precisely by the intolerance that had given cause for the meeting. The Italian Northern League, a conservative Catholic-based political movement, condemned the meeting: "To pray with heretics, schismatics, rabbis, mullahs, witch doctors and various idolaters creates confusion among Catholic believers."

Reading all these reports brought back memories of the problems that came with growing up in a mixed religious environment. I come from a multicultural and therefore "ecumenical" family. Clan members would converge for Sunday lunch reunions coming from Mass, a Protestant service, or worship at a Buddhist or Taoist temple.

There were no problems within the clan dealing with this religious pluralism but studying in Catholic schools, still too early after Vatican II, we had teachers who feared the new ecumenism. All the unbaptized, we were told, went straight to hell (or, if they were still infants, to limbo). I still remember horror stories like the one about a kid who dared walk into a Jewish synagogue and who died shortly after and went straight to hell. The Religion teachers were very clear: salvation came only from the Catholic Church and to be even curious about other religions was to risk eternal damnation.

I don't know if these teachers ever thought about the impact on young minds especially since so many of the Chinese-Filipino students had "heathen" grandparents. I had one feisty grandmother (the one I wrote about, with her bound feet) who was devoutly Buddhist. In her 70s, she became very ill and the hospital's Catholic chaplain came by one day offering to baptize her. She sent him on his way with a lecture on the need to respect other people's religions, and lived another 20 years, dying unbaptized and loyal to her faith.

A few years back, I went on a China tour and I still remember how some of the younger Chinese-Filipinos were so absolutely terrified by the temples. The statues seemed like the devil incarnate for them, and the incense burning acts of idolatry. They had come from secular Chinese schools but were not spared, in after-school catechism classes, from admonitions about such practices as being idolatrous.

Is it possible to "marry" different faiths? I think it is. Jesuit Communications has some fine materials on this controversial topic. I've mentioned, in the past, a video called "Ha Ha Po Pi," featuring young Chinese-Filipinos and how they reconcile their Catholicism with Chinese culture. It's a video I'd use as well in classrooms to help students to understand religious pluralism.

Another Jesuit Communications product is Fr. Ari C. Dy's "Weaving Our Dreams," which talks about how Chinese-Filipino Catholics are dealing with the controversies over Chinese rituals. Dy offers excellent pastoral advice on dealing with Chinese social obligations while conforming to Catholic teachings. There's even a section with a suggested blessing for an engagement, and a Catholic "ancestor veneration" ritual which allows the use of incense, flowers and wine.

I should warn, though, against confusing ecumenism with exoticism. We have to be careful that "tolerance" doesn't become condescending, translated into a form of voyeurism where we get to gawk at people of a different faith as they worship. Neither is it ecumenism to just borrow practices such as putting up Taoist *bagua* (hexagonal mirrors) on doors. Ecumenism must involve a genuine dialogue where we try to understand the pillars of other people's faiths. It is not right to say, "All religions are the same." There is in fact great diversity among the religions and this diversity can become part of a common legacy for humanity.

I won't go into details about the theological aspects of religious pluralism but I do want to say something about the perils of intolerance. Especially because our culture is predominantly Catholic, we need to be even more conscious of the dangers of religious absolutism.

The idea that "we" are always right and "they" are always wrong often spills over into secular spheres of public life. We see that certainly in President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's fiery speech last week, where she transforms the world into simplistic dichotomies of good and evil, a la Bush: You are for us or against us. Not to support the American troops as they intervene in Mindanao makes you anti-Filipino, an Abu Sayyaf lover.

It is a terrible sign of the times when national leaders lash out that way but I was not surprised. Bush and Ms Macapagal's world view is rooted in self-righteous religiosity and as the social philosopher Eric Hoffer once put it, the most self-righteous are in fact the most insecure, and therefore the most demanding.

"Ha Ha Po Pi" takes off from a frivolous expression used by young Tsinoy kids. "*Po pi*" means "to bless" and "*ha ha*" connotes laughter. Secure with what we believe, we dare to be lighthearted about our religion. By showing how faith is so intertwined with people's daily lives, including children's laughter as Ha Ha Po Pi does, we proclaim its universal value for all who strive to be better, loving humans.

Jesuit Communications is at the Sonolux Building, Ateneo de Manila, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Tel. No. 426-5971 and 426-5926. Email is jescom@vasia.com

* * *

Comments at miguel@pinoykasi.com

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Ex-Taliban FM cooperates

KABUL—As Afghanistan's interim leaders stepped up diplomatic efforts to win badly needed aid Sunday, differences emerged over how best to handle the most senior Taliban official who have surrendered.

Cabinet chair Hamid Karzai arrived in the United Arab Emirates, one of three countries which had recognized the Taliban regime, and Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim was scheduled to arrive in Moscow.

The Afghan leader's trip comes a day after the Pentagon announced the capture of the most senior Taliban minister to be detained so far—the radical militia's foreign minister, Abdul Wakil Mutawakel.

Mutawakel surrendered to the US military in southern Kandahar province late Friday, and was quickly branded a "war criminal" who "supported terrorism" by interim Foreign Minister Abdullah.

But Kandahar provincial Governor Gul Agha said late Saturday that Mutawakel, considered a "moderate" in the Taliban but still a close aide to supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, could expect rewards for cooperation.

"Mutawakel is cooperating with us. He has accepted the present Afghan set up and assured support to the present political process," Agha said in the Pakistani border town of Quetta.

"We will keep in view if he shows cooperation with interrogators, and he will definitely benefit."

Mutawakel's inside knowledge of the workings of the secretive Taliban and its relationship with Osama bin Laden could provide valuable leads for US forces trying to track down the Sept. 11 terror suspect. *AFP*

AN AFGHAN boy leads his younger sister back to their tent after fetching a kettle of water at a refugee camp in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, Feb. 10. An estimated 50,000 families are scraping out an existence in camps around Mazar-e-Sharif after more than two decades of wars, severe drought and a lifetime of poverty. REUTERS

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, February 12, 2002
5th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 K 8:22-23, 27-30
Gospel: Mk 7:1-13

One day the Pharisees gathered around Jesus and with them were some teachers of the Law who had just come from Jerusalem. They noticed that some of his disciples were eating their meal with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. Now the Pharisees, and in fact, all the Jews, never eat without washing their hands for they follow the tradition received from their ancestors. Nor do they eat anything when they come from the market without first washing themselves. And there are many other traditions they observe, for example, the ritual washing of cups, pots and plates.

So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law asked him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders, but eat with unclean hands?"

Jesus answered, "You, shallow people! How well Isaiah prophesied of you when he wrote: This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, for what they teach are only human rules. You even put aside the commandment of God to hold fast to human tradition."

And Jesus commented, "You have a fine way of disregarding the commandment of God in order to implant your own tradition. For example, Moses said: Do your duty to your father and your mother, and: Whoever curses his father or his mother is to be put to death. But according to you someone could say to his father or mother: 'I already declared Corban, which means "offered to God," what you could have expected from me.' In this case, you no longer let him do anything for a father or mother. So you nullify the word of God through the tradition you have handed on. And you do many other things like that."

Commentary

We tend to identify people as pious, careful observer of rules, soft spoken, prim and proper mannered. S/he looks like a saint, we say. And in many cases they are. Who has not idolized those sisters in clean habits when they took care of us while in kinder or grade school? But in today's gospel Jesus reproaches those who pay attention only to appearances. Those who honor him with their lips while their hearts are far from the Lord. Liberation, salvation take place inside the person; they will also show outside. We are wrong when in our spirituality we give more importance to "imitation" than to "following," to "asceticism" more than to "mysticism," to "prayers" more than to "contemplation." Some can be seen and give good example; the latter ones can be noticed and give fruits of transformation.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missiona-ries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Ejectment cases; distinction between actions for forcible entry and unlawful detainer—Ejectment cases are summary proceedings intended to provide an expeditious means or protecting actual possession or right of possession of property. Title is not involved, that is why it is a special civil action with a special procedure. The only issue to be resolved in ejectment cases is the question as to who is entitled to the physical or material possession of the premises or possession *de facto*. The summary actions for forcible entry and unlawful detainer are distinguished from each other as follows: "Forcible entry and unlawful detainer are two distinct actions defined in Section 1, Rule 70 of the Rules of Court. In forcible entry, one is deprived of physical possession of land or building by means of force, intimidation, threat, strategy, or stealth. In unlawful detainer, one unlawfully withholds possession thereof after the expiration or termination of his right to hold possession under any contract, express or implied. In forcible entry, the possession is illegal from the beginning and the basic inquiry centers on who has the prior possession *de facto*. In unlawful detainer, the possession was originally lawful but become unlawful by the expiration or termination of the right to possess, hence the issue of rightful possession is decisive for, in such action, the defendant is in actual possession and the plaintiff's cause of action is the termination of the defendant's right to continue in possession. What determines the cause of action is the nature of defendant's entry into the land. If the entry is illegal, then the action which may be filed against the intruder within one year therefrom is forcible entry. If, on the other hand, the entry is legal but the possession thereafter became illegal, the case is one of unlawful detainer which must be filed within one year from the date of the last demand." [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, Go, Jr. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 142276, August 14, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

An offer like no other. Never before!

STRETCHED UP TO 48 MONTHS 0% INTEREST

Nissan's LIGHTER MOVES

Call it a well-deserved reward or an exciting motivation. This season, give yourself a Nissan car. More than ever, it's easier to own one. With unbelievably stretched zero % interest, low downpayment schemes, and zero interest plans. You can get a luxurious Cefiro, a fully-loaded Exalta, and other innovative Nissan cars. For yourself or for your family. Hurry to your Nissan dealer, attractive packages await cash buyers!

• STRETCHED ZERO INTEREST 48 MONTHS, 20% DOWNPAYMENT

		Amount Financed		Monthly Installments			Comparison	
MODEL	SRP	0% INTEREST (25% of the amount financed)	REGULAR (75% of the amount financed)	0% INTEREST	REGULAR	TOTAL (A)	100% REGULAR (B)	SAVINGS (difference of A & B x 48 Mos.)
Cefiro Elite	P 1,310,000	P 262,000	P 786,000	P 5,458	P 22,680	P 28,138	P 30,240	P 100,896
Exalta 1.5MT	P 688,000	P 137,600	P 412,800	P 2,867	P 11,911	P 14,778	P 15,882	P 52,992
Verita	P 698,000	P 139,600	P 418,800	P 2,908	P 12,084	P 14,992	P 16,113	P 53,808

Note: Stretched zero interest plan is also available for 24 & 36 months & other passenger car models of NMPI.

• LOW DOWNPAYMENT SCHEME

MODEL	SRP	DOWN PAYMENT	60 Mos.	48 Mos.	36 Mos.
Exalta 1.5MT	P 688,000	P 88,600	P 13,853	P 16,144	P 20,027
Verita	P 698,000	P 90,600	P 14,054	P 16,379	P 20,318

Note: 18 to 24 months terms also available
Low downpayment plan is also available for other passenger car models of NMPI

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Afghan warlord rules out compromise

KABUL—An Afghan warlord who led the worst factional warfare since the fall of the Taliban vowed Sunday to fight on rather than step down as governor of a province where tribal leaders have refused to accept his rule.

With a bandoleer of bullets across his chest, Bacha Khan said he has 6,000 fighters ready to do battle again with forces loyal to the town council, or shura, of Gardez, who oppose his appointment as governor of surrounding Paktia province.

"They are no town council," Khan thundered. "They are an al-Qaida council and a Taliban council."

He added: "We are ready to fight al-Qaida today, tomorrow or any time."

Gardez shura leaders deny being al-Qaida or Taliban members and accuse Khan of being unscrupulous and corrupt.

Fighting between the two sides in January killed at least 60 people. The town council's refusal to accept Khan, whose appointment was confirmed by the government only after he had declared himself governor, threatens efforts by the interim Afghan administration of Hamid Karzai to extend its authority across the country.

The fighting ended with a ceasefire. Khan and shura members held talks with the government in Kabul, the Afghan capital, this weekend to seek a longer-term solution.

But Khan, speaking at a press conference after the talks, said he would not step down if Karzai appoints another governor.

If "he makes another decision and changes his mind there will be problems all over Afghanistan," said Khan, who also wore a black turban and camouflaged military jacket.

The press conference started with representatives from all 12 of Paktia's districts pledging loyalty to Khan one by one. *AP*

REUTERS

FLYING SAMBA
American Eric Scott flies over Carnival revelers at the Sambadrome stadium with his rocket-belt as part of the parade by the Grande Rio samba school, in Rio de Janeiro, Feb. 10. Carnival festivities throughout Brazil will run through Feb. 12.

Lab mice die early; fears for human clones raised

PARIS—Researchers in Japan have discovered that cloned mice die prematurely, a finding that has ominous implications for attempts by maverick scientists who want to clone a human being.

Cloning entails removing the core, or nucleus of an egg, and replacing it with genetic material from a donor.

Despite advances in the transfer technique, many cloned embryos fail to develop properly or miscarry.

In addition, questions have been raised about the health of those that survive to term. Dolly the Sheep, the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell, was reported last month to have prematurely developed arthritis.

Why such failures happen is unclear, but the main suspect is that genetic programming fthe inserted DNA somehow lacks the full "instructions" for the egg to develop normally.

Now, a major study in the longevity of cloned animals raises further questions about the safety of this new frontier in biotechnology.

It implies that a cloned baby could be destined to a life of sickness, followed by an early grave.

Atsuo Ogura of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases in Tokyo and colleagues cloned 12 male mice, and compared them with a control group comprising seven males which had been born from natural matings and six that had been born from in-vitro fertilization.

At first, the clones were no different from the other mice. They were healthy and active and gained weight at a normal rate.

Within less than a year, though, things started to go wrong. An apparent flaw in the cloned mice's immune system left them unable to fight off disease, causing them to die from pneumonia, liver necrosis and cancer.

By the 311st day, the first cloned mice had succumbed. By the 800th day, 10 had died, a toll of 83 percent. Among the control group, however, only three of the rodents, or 23 percent, had died during the same period.

Ogura's team, whose work is published online by the specialist monthly journal Nature Genetics, said it was still possible that the other two clones could have a normal lifespan.

They also caution that the genetic profile of the donor cell may have an impact on longevity. *AFP*

F-16s, choppers strike Gaza

BEERSHEVA, Israel—The 16-month-old intifada flared for the first time in the southern Israeli city of Beersheva Sunday when Palestinian gunmen shot dead two Israeli women soldiers, prompting strikes by Israeli F-16s on the security headquarters in Yasser Arafat's Gaza City compound.

Israeli helicopters also blasted a metal workshop in Jabaliya in the north of the Gaza Strip, injuring 11 civilians including a 14-year-old seriously, and fired two rockets on a similar target in nearby Beit Lahia, injuring another four, Palestinian security and hospital sources said.

The warplanes onslaught on the Palestinian leader's compound wounded 22, including civilians, the sources said. No serious injuries were reported.

Gaza-based UN special coordinator for the Middle East Terje Roed-Larsen said in a statement that two UN employees were injured in the strikes.

Three bombs completely destroyed the building housing the Navy police headquarters and badly damaged the command center for Arafat's elite Force 17 guards, officials said.

The Gaza raids were in retaliation for an attack in the desert city of Beersheva by two Palestinian gunmen, who pulled up in a car in front a the restaurant outside an Army base and shot dead two Israeli women soldiers.

The two gunmen were then shot dead by Israeli security forces, one of them after running into a parking lot near a school. He was found to have a belt of explosives strapped to his body, police said. Police sappers defused the device. *AFP*

Pearl abductor hiding in Lahore, police say

KARACHI—Pakistani police said Monday they believe chief kidnapping suspect Sheikh Omar is hiding in the eastern city of Lahore amid growing concern for the fate of his hostage, US journalist Daniel Pearl.

Senior police sources involved in the massive manhunt revealed they had spoken with Omar, the British-born Islamic extremist accused of kidnapping Pearl and threatening to kill him almost three weeks ago.

They said they had spoken with Omar by phone on Feb. 2 and believed he was in Lahore at the time.

"We believe he (Omar) is still in Lahore and it will be very difficult for him to slip away from the city because of the very tight security measures that are enforced . . . at all exit points," a police officer said.

"His family and son are with him but we are not sure about Daniel Pearl being with him in Lahore. Omar is a sharp man who is highly trained and motivated."

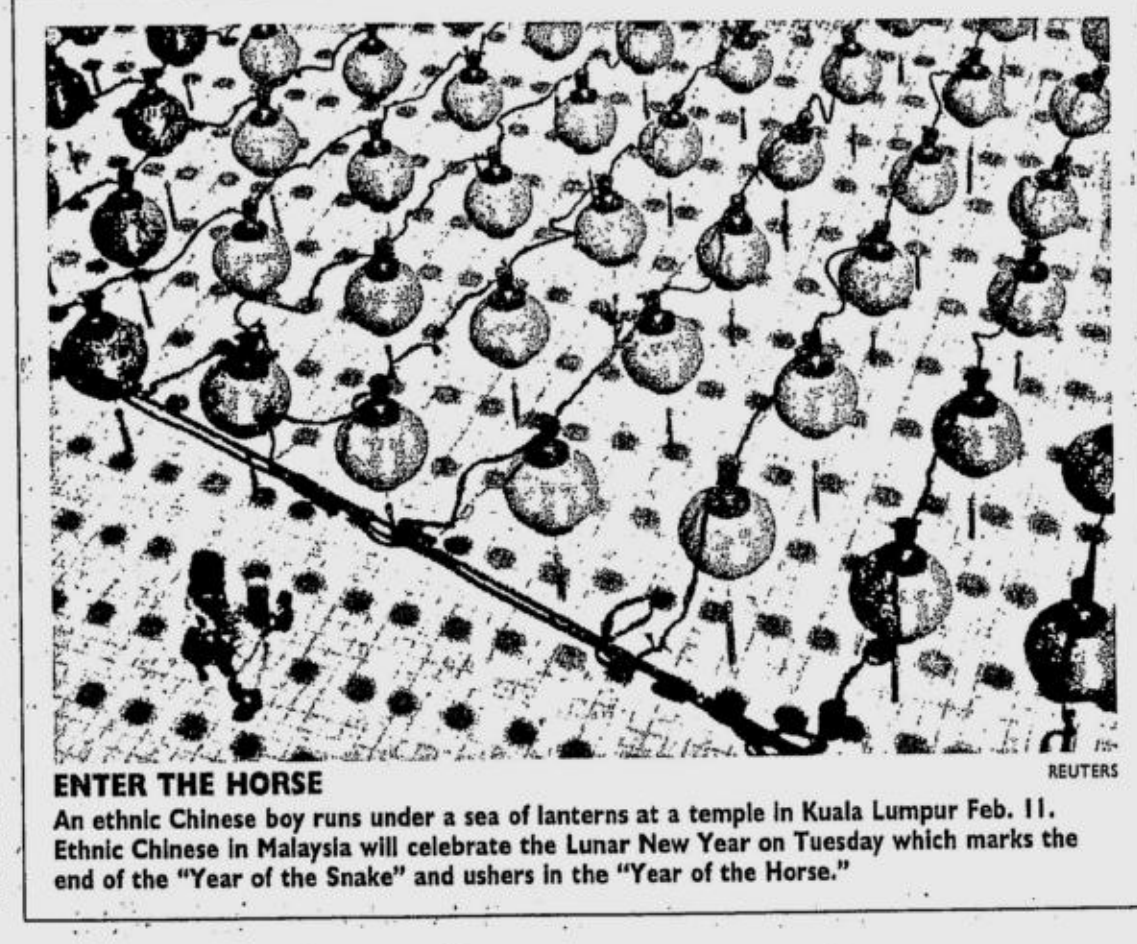
But the sources admitted they were "struggling" to find new leads on Omar's whereabouts, despite another raid on a home Sunday night in Rawalpindi, 260 km northwest of Lahore.

A relative of one of two men who owned a mobile phone recently used by Omar was detained in the raid, police said.

Police have said they believe Wall Street Journal correspondent Pearl, 38, was being held in the southern city of Karachi, where he disappeared on Jan. 23 while researching a story on Islamic militancy in Pakistan.

Despite the arrests of some 17 people in relation to the investigation, and public appeals from Pearl's employers and pregnant wife, there have been no contacts with the kidnappers for some two weeks.

The last genuine e-mails from the kidnappers said they would kill Pearl by Feb. 1 unless the United States released a Taliban diplomat and Pakistanis captured in Afghanistan. *AFP*



REUTERS

ENTER THE HORSE
An ethnic Chinese boy runs under a sea of lanterns at a temple in Kuala Lumpur Feb. 11. Ethnic Chinese in Malaysia will celebrate the Lunar New Year on Tuesday which marks the end of the "Year of the Snake" and ushers in the "Year of the Horse."

Jilted lover kills 10, self

MDANTSANE, South Africa—A man, apparently a jilted lover, killed 10 people and then himself when he ran amuck through a black district near the South African port city of East London, police said Sunday.

Two of seven other people wounded were in the intensive care unit in serious condition after the shooting, which took place late Saturday in Mdantsane, a hospital doctor said.

"The rest are all in a stable condition," Guillermo Perez of Cecilia Makawane hospital told the South African news agency Sapa.

Police said the man, a security guard in East London, apparently had a bad argument with his girlfriend who split up with him. He then killed her Saturday at her home with a 9mm pistol.

Afterward he ran amuck, going to her parents' house, where he killed three people, two of them the woman's parents.

The man then hijacked a passing car and drove through Mdantsane, randomly firing on passers-by in the street before he got out of his vehicle and began shooting again outside a bar, hitting six people. *AFP*

Lawmakers doubt ex-Enron boss' testimony

WASHINGTON—Lawmakers Sunday said they doubted the veracity of former Enron chief executive Jeffrey Skilling's testimony to a House panel, and one congressman suggested the statements could lead to perjury charges.

Meanwhile another former Enron chief, Kenneth Lay, indicated he would refuse to answer questions before Congress, dashing hopes that more light could be shed on the spectacular collapse of the seventh largest US company.

Skilling, the highest ranking Enron official to speak publicly about the meltdown, told a congressional panel last week that he was unaware of any financing plans to conceal debts or other actions to mislead shareholders.

But Rep. Billy Tauzin, chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said Skilling's testimony lacked credibility, and could lead to legal consequences.

"All the information we got was that he really thought he was smarter than everybody in Washington, that he could come and just, you know, flamboozle us, just tell us anything he wanted, and we would buy it," Tauzin told CBS on Sunday.

"I'm afraid he may have put himself in some legal jeopardy as a result."

Tauzin added that "you can't come to Congress, take the oath to tell the truth, and then not tell the truth without some problems . . . we're hearing from others in the corporation that he came to us and told us a lot of untruths."

Sen. Ernest Hollings, member of a committee probing the Enron collapse in the Senate, said he too found Skilling's statement incredulous.

"No, nobody does think he was telling the truth," Hollings told the same CBS program. "I don't believe he thinks so. No, you can't come there with all that—they were out selling everything that they had done. Now they're selling everything that they can't remember. Come on."

Rep. James Greenwood, who chaired last week's hearing, said he had hoped to believe Skilling but could not. *AFP*

A BOSNIAN woman visits graves at a cemetery in Sarajevo Feb. 9 where victims of the 1992-95 siege of the Bosnian capital are buried. Of some 200,000 people killed in the 1992-95 country's war, 11,500 died in the once picturesque and cosmopolitan capital which hosted the Winter Olympics handsomely in 1984. The trial of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic facing charges of genocide, opens next week at the UN War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. RUETERS

Milosevic retains bluster ahead of war crimes trial

BELGRADE—Former Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic has lost little of his bluster as he goes on trial in The Hague next week charged with orchestrating Europe's worst carnage since World War II.

The burly firebrand who defied international sanctions and Nato bombs over nearly a decade of strife in the ex-Yugoslavia remains unmoved by accusations of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He's been called "the Butcher of the Balkans," the embodiment of post-Cold War nationalism gone rampant. He stoked conflicts that left more than 200,000 people dead, up to three million homeless and the Yugoslav economy in ruins.

But Milosevic makes no apologies for his actions in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo, where his drive for a Greater Serbia cleansed of Croats and Muslims sparked a rash of grisly massacres and finally a showdown with the West.

"I'm proud for everything I did in defending my country and my people," he told the US television network Fox News in a sneak phone interview last August from his jail outside The Hague.

"All my decisions are legitimate and legal, based on the Constitution of Yugoslavia and based on the rights to self-defense, which belongs to every nation in the world."

Seven months in a UN detention center have not blunted the edges of the one-time Yugoslav president, facing life in prison as the first ex-head of state to appear before an international criminal court.

He refuses to cooperate with the most important war crimes proceedings since the Nuremberg Nazi trials more than half a century ago, and vows to fight on against Western "lies" about his rule 1987-2000.

Milosevic, 60, portrays himself as a besieged statesman who struggled to keep the crumbling Yugoslav federation intact against separatists and, in a nod to the new realities, terrorists.

The role is just the latest adopted by the wily Serb, who matches bluff and cockiness with what one commentator called "a Machiavellian flare for shedding identities which are of no more use to him." *AFP*

Indonesia government a trash can —Megawati

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri launched a stinging attack on government officials on Monday, describing her administration as a trashcan and labeling bureaucrats lazy yes-men.

"I want those so-called bureaucrats to get up from behind their desks, because there are many things that happen outside," Megawati told an annual gathering of officials from across the vast archipelago.

"I am leading a government which I describe as a trashcan because a lot of bureaucrats have refused to go out in the field," she added.

Indonesia, still battling the fallout from Asia's financial crisis, is also facing separatist and religious conflicts that have erupted in various parts of the world's most populous Muslim nation.

But Megawati, the country's third president since the autocratic Suharto was forced to step down in 1998, said her officials were not doing enough to solve the myriad problems.

"Many officials at that time liked to highlight the good things to their superiors. In fact, a lot of the bad things need to be highlighted. Highlighting the good things is useless."

Reuters

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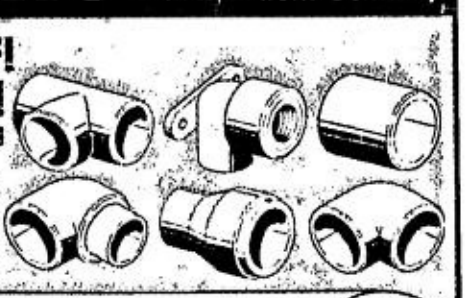

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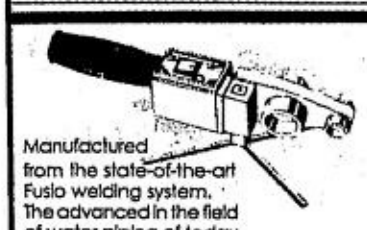

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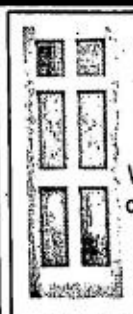

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New kidnap gang emerges in South

COTABATO CITY—Another kidnapping gang has emerged in Sultan Kudarat and its first victims were a Korean and a Filipino businessman.

The emergence of the gang comes in the wake of efforts by the Philippine military, now with the help of American soldiers, to put down the Abu Sayyaf, which was linked to the al-Qaida network of international terrorist Osama Bin Laden.

The new group, called Abu Suffia, is allegedly led by Mudammirol Omar alias Commander Tropical. It is holding captives Jae Kwon-yoon and his business partner Carlos Belanio, owner of Tierra Verde Hotel in General Santos City. They were seized Thursday last week.

But the Army expressed doubts over the existence of the Abu Suffia gang.

The Abu Suffia gang could just be members of another group now holding the two hostages, said Col. Nardo Balboa, spokesperson of the 601st Army Brigade here.

Commander Tropical, who claims to be a leader of the gang, earlier sent a letter to Palembang Mayor Labualas Mamansual asking for the suspension of manhunt operations.

In the letter, Tropical claimed that his group was willing to negotiate for the safe release of the hostage victims.

Supt. Abubakar Mangelen, Sultan Kudarat police chief, however, said based on intelligence reports, the Abu Suffia is composed of former Moro rebels who turned to banditry.

They were believed to be responsible for a series of highway robberies and ambuscades in the boundary of Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani provinces.

Mangelen, who only assumed office a week ago, vowed to disband the group that operates in his area of jurisdiction.

"This mole would not turn into a mountain," Mangelen told radio station dxMS.

He added that the group is composed of about 30 heavily armed men, which "must be neutralized at all costs. Otherwise it will become a big problem in the future."

Kidnapping charges have been filed against Tropical and several unidentified men with the victims' escorts as principal witnesses.

Police and Army special forces teams have cordoned the location of the kidnappers in the hinterlands of Palembang but gave way to negotiations led by Mayor Mamansual.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, who visited Palembang over the weekend, directed the military to ensure the safety of the victims in the rescue efforts.

"The victims' safety is our utmost concern but the Army is ready to use force," he told reporters.

Belanio's family also appealed to the military to defer offensives as it may endanger the lives of the victims, according to Mangelen.

On Sunday, government troopers clashed with suspected members of the kidnap group in the village of Kulong-Kulong in Palembang. At least five suspects were wounded, Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, 6th Infantry Division chief, said.

Soldiers recovered four Armalite rifles, B-40 anti-tank rocket launchers, four B-40 rockets and several rounds of ammunition.

The suspects fled during a brief encounter, the Army said. No casualty was reported on the government side.

Mangelen said kidnapping, serious illegal detention and robbery charges have been filed against captured suspect Abu Bandan.

Bandan is currently detained at the Army's outpost in Malisbong, Palembang, but military officials said he would be turned over to jail as soon as they receive a copy of the arrest warrant.

Augusto Coloquio, 38, and Edgar Enriquez, who were with the group of Jae and Belonio when the abduction took place, executed sworn statements which were used in the filing of the formal complaints.

Coloquio is working with Rapid Advance International Corp., a company engaged in the exploration of precious metals in the country.

Enriquez, a member of the Philippine Marines, served as security escorts of the group during the trip to Palembang.

The two were released by the kidnappers late afternoon of Feb. 6.

Jae is the chair of Rapid Advance International Corp., while Belonio serves as his local business partner.

601st Army Brigade commander Col. Pedrito Magsino vowed to arrest the suspects once the arrest warrants came out. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ROUNDUP

Probe of burial funds

ILAGAN, Isabela—A councilor here has called for an investigation of the alleged irregularity in the disbursement of more than P800,000 in burial funds that benefited even wealthy families in the town. Councilor Rolando Tugade, one of the officials who uncovered the alleged scam, urged the Commission on Audit to validate the disbursements from the Ilagan government's discretionary funds. He said the disbursements were made from July 2000 to June 2001. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Mt. Data rainforest

BAGUIO CITY—Two Cordillera congressmen have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare the remaining rainforest cover of Mt. Data National Park, particularly in Upper Bauko, Mt. Province, as a protected watershed area. Mt. Province Rep. Roy Pilando and Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao, in a recent meeting with the President, said Mt. Data is the watershed of three major rivers in the Cordillera. The Agno River feeds the reservoirs of the Binga and Ambuklao Dams while the Chico and Abra Rivers benefit farmers from Mt. Province, Kalinga, Cagayan and Ilocos provinces. ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Water rate hike opposed

PILI, Camarines Sur—Consumers in this town are up against the Pili Water District (PWAD) after its board increased water rates to P14.30 per cubic meter. They claimed that the rate is the highest in Bicol, saying that the Metro Naga Water District's rate was only P8.75. The new water rates would be higher than Metro Manila's which is P8. Raul Divinagracia, PWAD general manager, claimed that the increase was necessary and was taken up in consultations with consumers in 1999. He said the increase is a requirement of the Asian Development Bank. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Mindoro irrigation

CALAPAN CITY—About 2,000 farmers will benefit from the bulldozing of part of the Aglubang River, whose water is intended to be partly channeled to the irrigation canal of about 800 hectares of land the farmers cultivate. Cesar Ramirez, barangay head of Villa Cerveza, said his village and Barangay Alcate, both mining sites in Victoria town, requested Gov. Bartolome Marasigan for the bulldozing of the area just after the provincial council passed an ordinance imposing a 25-year mining moratorium. The provincial government will also support the Farmers Field School in Victoria put up by the farmers. ***Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Cleanest NFA office

CALAPAN CITY—The National Food Authority awarded its Oriental Mindoro office P45,000 in cash for being the NFA's cleanest office in the country. The office, NFA provincial manager Arturo Figueroa said, had been successfully implementing a waste management program that included recycling G.I. sheets for use in the ceiling of its records room, the building of multi-purpose halls and farmers' sheds, fences and billboards and producing fertilizers from compost, which it distributes to farmers, throwing away nothing. ***Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Church scholarships

SAN PABLO CITY—The Diocesan Social Action Center (DSAC) here has started a scholarship project for poor and deserving children in Laguna through its "Alay Kapwa" program. Dubbed as "Alay Mo, Aral Ko," the project would ensure that qualified children of poor parents would get basic education, said Fr. Philip Atienza, DSAC director. Atienza said the first 100 children to be admitted into the program for the school year 2002-2003 will come from the remote barangay of Kabulusan in Pakil and a village in Famy town. ***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Rabies unleashes deadly fangs in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Chasing dogs here is becoming tougher and tougher for impounding teams.

Dr. Amando Barbadillo, acting head of the City Veterinarian's Office, said the city's dog impounding teams are now finding it more difficult to catch stray dogs unlike in the past.

"Now we have to run after them (dogs). They run once they see our teams. They know us now. They have become so elusive," Barbadillo said.

City veterinarians resumed the impounding of stray dogs as part of the Rabies Control Program of the city government. The impounding of stray dogs is one part of the program, the other is anti-rabies vaccination.

The city government has stepped up its rabies control program as dog bite cases last year reached 2,736, and cat bites, 352.

According to a report from the Animal Bite Center, the cases involved victims mostly below 15 years old. At least 1,456 of the victims are below 15 while 1,280 are above 15 years old.

The center recorded 22 deaths due to rabies. The victims did not receive any rabies vaccination.

Records showed an increase from the previous year's records. In 2000, there were 17 deaths recorded.

For the year 2000, the number of animal bite cases (including rats, monkeys, rabbits, cocks and pigs) reached 2,304 compared to last year's 3,162 or an increase of 37.23 percent.

Since the increase in the number of cases has become alarming, the city veterinarian started to impound stray dogs and inject anti-rabies vaccines into animals.

Last week, the city veterinarian resumed its impounding operation from 3 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. He said these were the usual hours when dogs go out and search for food in the city's garbage.

In the two-day operation, Barbadillo said the teams caught an average of 30 to 35 dogs a day. On Thursday night, 22 dogs were impounded and put in the city pound in Maa.

BING GONZALES

SOME of the stray dogs caught in the Davao City veterinarian's impounding project.

Barbadillo said owners must claim their pets within three days, or these will be killed through the gas chamber.

The city government has continued using gas chambers to kill dogs that will not be claimed by their owners within three days after these are impounded by the city government.

Dr. Cerelyn Pinili, assistant city veterinarian, said there is no way for the office to get rid of dogs unclaimed by owners but through "mercy killing" using gas chambers.

Pinili said the use of gas chambers is a painless way of killing animals. "There is no struggle and this is an accepted method under the Animal Welfare Act," Pinili said. ***Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

NBI seeks probe of 'dirty' prosecutors

PAGADIAN CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation has asked the justice department to investigate "unscrupulous" state prosecutors here.

Lawyer Friolo Icao Jr., NBI district chief, said he sought the investigation after complaints about alleged irregularities committed by prosecutors reached his office.

He also cited an NBI experience during the arrest of a certain Elmer Gabonado for drug pushing on Feb. 5.

In his Feb. 6 letter to chief prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, Icao said Assistant Fiscal Domingo Briones arbitrarily ordered Gabonado's release.

"Fiscal Briones, the designated investigating prosecutor, swiftly stated that he ordered the release because the case filed by the NBI has defects," Icao told the INQUIRER.

He said it was the second time that Briones made such a decision, which the NBI considers hastily done. ***Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Way paved for postponement of barangay, youth elections

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The postponement of the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections this year gained the support of the House opposition, after two committees handling the debate over the issue adopted the conditions set by the minority bloc.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said on Sunday they agreed to the proposal introduced by the House committees on suffrage and electoral reforms and on local government to postpone the two elections until November 2002.

Padilla said among the conditions presented in the proposal were the conduct of a synchronized barangay and SK elections and that the elections should be held not later than 2002.

The joint committee report supposedly sets the synchronized elections to be held on "the second Monday of November."

The terms for the postponement, Padilla said, were acceptable to all members of the joint committees.

The barangay elections were earlier scheduled for May while the SK elections were originally set to take place a week before the barangay elections.

The Commission on Elections, however, proposed that the SK elections be postponed until November or December.

Padilla clarified that even with the support the minority was giving to the proposal, the minority was not making a turnaround from its previous stand of objecting to any deferment.

"I always believe that two elections held simultaneously would mean less expense on the part of the government," he said.

But if the SK elections were to be reset, Padilla said, the SK voters (15-21 years old) would be given an extended opportunity to register, as the new schedule would already be beyond the 120-day limit imposed by the Local Government Code on registrations held prior to any election.

Quoting a report from the Comelec Padilla said only 1.5 million out of the 11 million SK qualified voters nationwide have registered for the elections.

There were even a number of barangays where only three to four residents had registered, he said.

"This is even less than the number of those who are supposed to be voted upon in an SK officials' roster," he said.

He, however, pointed out that while the House may adopt the committee proposal to postpone the elections, there is still no assurance that the measure would be acceptable to the Senate. ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Town hit by fish kill to hold 'bangus' festival

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—*Bangus* (milkfish), anyone?

Pangasinan officials and fishermen's groups and local government officials in this coastal town will hold a "*bangus* (milkfish) festival" today, to prove that *bangus* from this town are safe to eat.

A massive fish kill hit the local aquaculture industry this month, causing operators of fish pens and cage to lose at least P600 million.

Mayor Jesus Celeste said the local government is holding the festival after he received reports that *bangus* producers in Bolinao are having a hard time marketing their harvests.

He said local officials and the Bolinao Fishermen Association will stage the festival to show *bangus* consumers that fish coming from the town are safe for human consumption.

Celeste said they would serve free *bangus* in El Pescador, a resort owned by the mayor, at 9 a.m. today.

"We would like to disprove reports that the fish from the town are toxic, by holding this festival," Celeste said.

Bolinao's aquaculture industry is a big revenue earner of the town that produces at least 25,000 metric tons of *bangus* harvest annually, according to Board Member Ariel de Guzman.

In 2001, the industry generated P6.21 million from permits alone and P2.08 million from wharf fees, De Guzman said.

A report of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute showed that the red-pigmented phytoplankton *Prorocentrum minimum* bloomed in Bolinao's waters, causing the fish kill on Feb. 1 and 3.

The UPMSI report showed that the *P. minimum* is associated with fish kills and is reported to have caused human poisoning through shellfish consumption in other countries.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, in a report, said despite the massive fish kill, shellfish gathered in areas affected by the fish kill are free from the red tide toxin.

The BFAR's red tide management program tested shellfish samples gathered from the areas where a massive fish kill hit fish pens and cages last week.

Zenaida Abuso, project leader, said laboratory analysis of the shellfish samples (brown mussels and oysters) collected in 18 monitoring stations showed that these were negative of the red tide toxin.

The team sampled waters from stations in Alaminos, Bani, Anda and Bolinao towns.

Westly Rosario, chief of the BFAR research center in Dagupan City, said their tests showed that the water of Bolinao is "already normal and there is a marked improvement in the water quality compared to the tests we conducted a day after the fish kill."

"However, we still have to conduct a thorough analysis of the bottom soil at the aquaculture areas to find out the level of pollution caused by the fish feeds," he said. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Skin disease outbreak blamed on AFP bombs

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY—Most infants and children in a number of towns in Basilan are afflicted with an unknown, "highly infectious" skin disease.

Dr. Huda Lim, provincial health medical specialist and officer-in-charge of the provincial hospital here, said even adults "as well as kids in Maluso are already infected."

Provincial surgeon Dr. Raniel Mon confirmed the outbreak of the infectious skin disease, which he said has been monitored since two years ago, or after dozens of teachers and pupils were taken hostage by the Abu Sayyaf in Maluso in March 2000.

"After that incident... we found that children were suffering from this disease (of an) unknown cause," Mon told the INQUIRER.

He said not only children were afflicted but also adults. Some of the victims are suffering from an advance stage of the disease and "no amount of antibiotics could heal the disease."

Lim said she suspected that the spread of the skin disease could be an aftermath of air strikes by the military two years ago on Abu Sayyaf lairs in Sumisip and Maluso.

She said she had the suspicion "because this disease was first detected in Sumisip and Maluso, where bombs were dropped by military planes."

"You'll get scared if you see the children. They're really pitiful," Lim said.

Provincial nurse Bibing Idris said she also suspected that the military might have used chemicals during the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

During the Vietnam War, the US military used "Agent Orange" to destroy the forest and fields that give cover to the Vietcongs. The Vietnamese claimed that Agent Orange not only destroyed forests but villagers' health, too.

Sumisip Mayor Jim Saliman told the INQUIRER that they "were puzzled" by the outbreak. He said a medical team is expected to visit their town to conduct a study.

But Mon said the disease could also be blamed on the unsanitary practices of some residents in the area.

"I don't think (this is) biological. It might be (caused) more (by) the absence of clean and potable water, and poor hygiene," he said. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

THE GUN should be aimed at criminal elements in Mindanao, but sometimes civilians are caught in the crossfire and suffer the most damage. DENNIS SABANGAN

Vice gov vows OK of irrigation plan

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The provincial board has not rejected the San Roque multipurpose dam project's (SRMDP) irrigation component and is in fact ready to officially support it, according to Vice Gov. Edna Tabanda.

Tabanda said the board was ready to endorse the San Roque project during its special session this month, to help the government obtain a P8.6-million loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The endorsement has been pending for more than five months. Tabanda attributed the delay to debates over how 80,000 farmers in Pangasinan and Tarlac would be affected or would benefit from the project.

The JBIC refused to grant the loan because of the province's refusal to endorse the project's irrigation component.

At least 30 members of the Itogon Inter-Barangay Alliance (IIBA), a group opposing the construction of the dam, trooped to the provincial capitol on Wednesday to ask the board not to endorse the San Roque project.

Simplicio Sikunan, IIBA president, said his group was afraid that the board would give in to pressures from Malacañang.

"We are watching the board members' actions because they might give in to the wishes of the President (Macapagal-Arroyo)," Sikunan said.

But Tabanda denied any pressure from Malacañang, "not even a communication between the provincial government and the President."

Pangasinan and Tarlac, the provinces that would directly benefit from the irrigation project, are considered the biggest rice producing areas in the country, she said.

"If they suffer from drought when the project is stopped, then it would be our fault," Tabanda said.

The project, which is one of the components of the $1.2-billion dam, includes a 70-hectare re-regulating pond with a capacity of 4.6 million cubic meters of water, and irrigation canals.

The pond will serve as an impounding basin for water used for power generation and irrigation. The dam project's power component is expected to operate by May next year. ***Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

CA upholds court on parricide case

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The court hearings for massacre suspect Danilo Afalla would proceed on as the Court of Appeals upheld the decision of a judge here to hear the four counts of parricide charges in his court.

The CA 11th division, in its decision dated Jan. 31 and received by the court here on Feb. 6, concurred with the consolidation of the cases to be heard by Judge Jose Rosales of the special criminal court for heinous crimes.

Afalla, 40, a ship mechanic, was arrested in Miami, Florida, last year on charges of killing his wife Aperacion and their children Cheenie Claire, 13, Mark Anthony, 11 and Michael Angelo, 5.

The victims' bodies were dumped on a riverbank in Barangay Don Mariano Marcos here. Their hands were tied and their heads were bashed.

The cases involving Afalla's children were assigned to Judge Gil Valdez of the family court while the case involving the accused's wife was handled by Rosales. ***Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Eastern Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

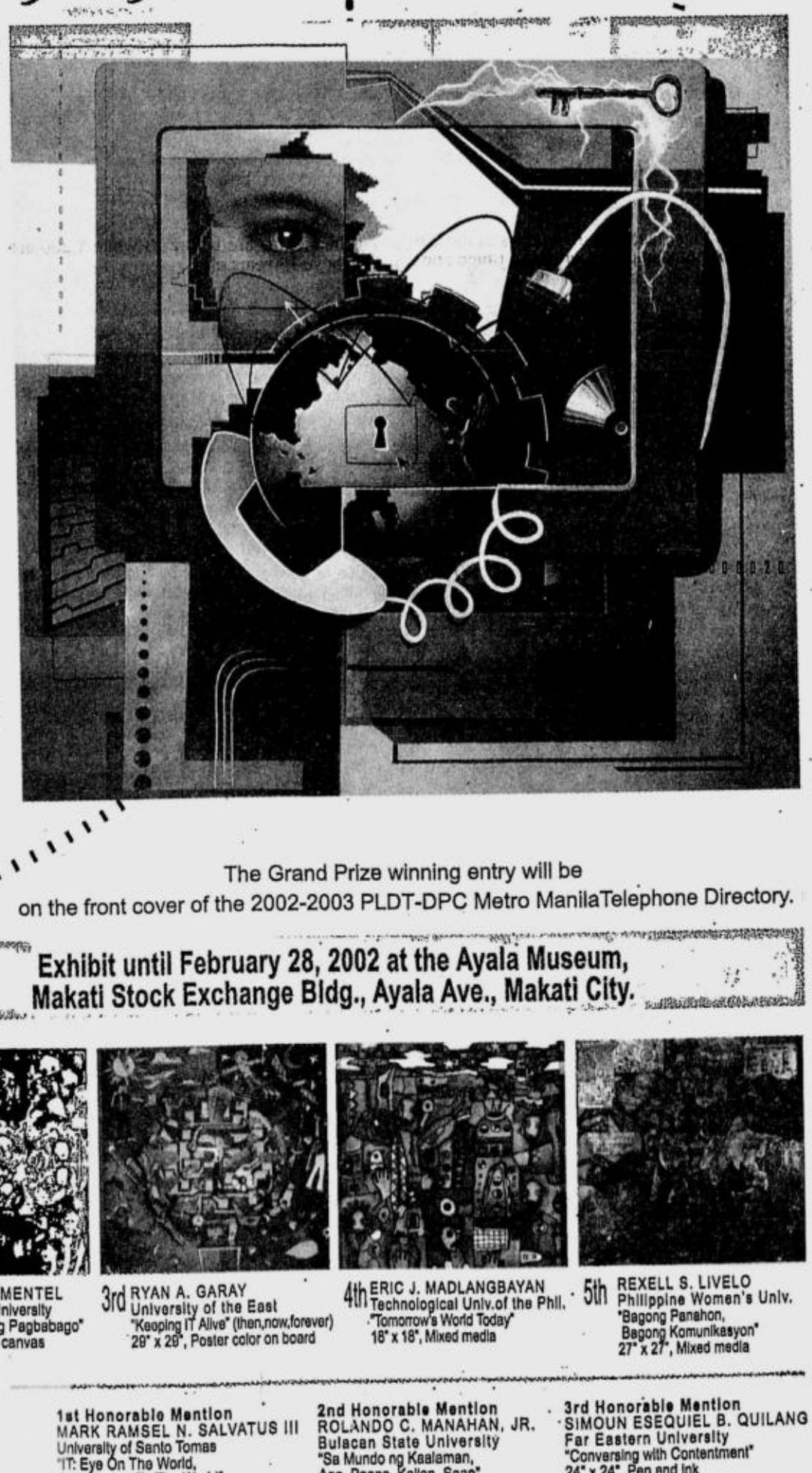
Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI30° Lo 22°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 22° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 19°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 20°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/12/02

Congratulations to the winners of the
16th 2002-2003 PLDT-DPC Telephone Directory Cover
Visual Art National Competition!

Theme: Communication in the I.T. World

SEE THE WORLD OF I.T. THROUGH THEIR EYES.

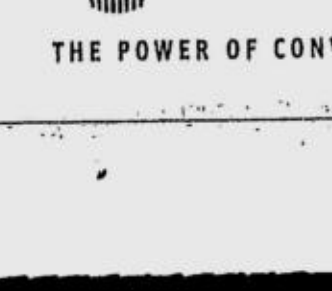


GRAND PRIZE
JAIME B. GUBATON
University of the East
"IT--An Opening to a New World"
24" x 24", Tempera (Watercolor)

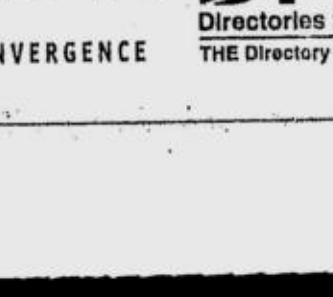
The Grand Prize winning entry will be
on the front cover of the 2002-2003 PLDT-DPC Metro ManilaTelephone Directory.

Exhibit until February 28, 2002 at the Ayala Museum,
Makati Stock Exchange Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City.

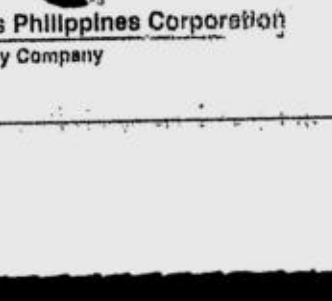
2nd MERVIN F. PIMENTEL
Far Eastern University
"Bagong Sibol ng Pagbabago"
29" x 29", Oil on canvas



3rd RYAN A. GARAY
University of the East
"Keeping IT Alive" (then,now,forever)
29" x 29", Poster color on board



4th ERIC J. MADLANGBAYAN
Technological Univ.of the Phil.
"Tomorrow's World Today"
18" x 18", Mixed media



5th REXELL S. LIVELO
Philippine Women's Univ.
"Bagong Panahon,
Bagong Komunikasyon"
27" x 27", Mixed media

1st Honorable Mention
MARK RAMSEL N. SALVATUS III
University of Santo Tomas
"IT: Eye On The World,
Our Window To The World"
29" x 29", Mixed media

2nd Honorable Mention
ROLANDO C. MANAHAN, JR.
Bulacan State University
"Sa Mundo ng Kaalaman,
Ano, Paano, Kailan, Saan"
29" x 29", Mixed media

3rd Honorable Mention
SIMOUN ESEQUIEL B. QUILANG
Far Eastern University
"Conversing with Contentment"
24" x 24", Pen and Ink

PLDT DPC
THE POWER OF CONVERGENCE
Directories Philippines Corporation
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Military shifts focus to Jolo; 10 Abus killed

From page A1

Clashes erupted in a remote village of Patikul town on Sunday when Army soldiers on patrol caught up with about 80 Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"Based on the assessment of our troops that conducted the clearing operations, about 10 rebels were killed," Col. Romeo Tolentino, an Army brigade commander in Jolo, told reporters.

Army soldiers pounded Abu Sayyaf positions with 105-mm cannon. They launched the attack after bandits killed six soldiers, including a young lieutenant, in an ambush last weekend.

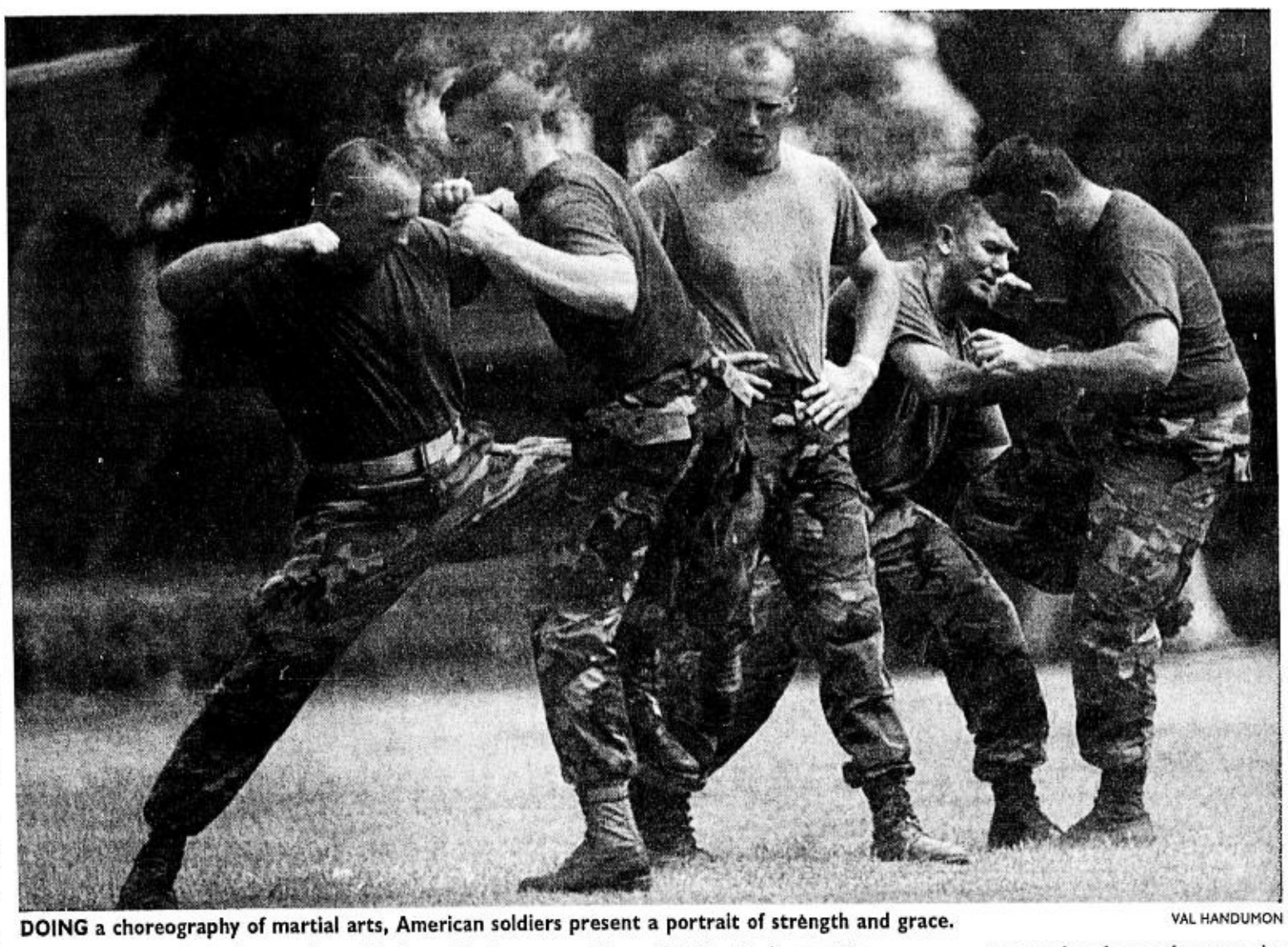
The clash coincided with the arrival of more US soldiers and military equipment in Zamboanga City prior to the start of the controversial RP-US military training exercise aimed at stamping out the Abu Sayyaf.

Kidnap attempt

In Zamboanga City, the military reported that Abu Sayyaf bandits attempted to abduct two foreign freelance journalists covering the Balikatan 02-1 exercises.

The two journalists were identified as Christopher Johnson, a Canadian, and Urban Hamid, a French national of Egyptian descent.

The pair, who arrived last week, were preparing to board a ferry bound for Basilan on Friday when two men posing as Army soldiers approached them and said they had been sent to assist the reporters.



DOING a choreography of martial arts, American soldiers present a portrait of strength and grace. VAL HANDUMON

The journalists became suspicious and contacted the military, who told them to return immediately to their hotel in Zamboanga City.

"The two journalists declined (the invitation of the suspects) after sensing danger because the men failed to show their IDs," said Lt. Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias, head of Southcom civil relations group.

"Intelligence reports indicated that the men are Abu Sayyaf members trying to lure the journalists," said Capt. Harold Cabunoc, commander of the Army Scout Ranger unit in Basilan.

"We did not send anybody to fetch foreign journalists," he said.

The military last week warned foreign journalists against venturing in to Basilan, saying they faced the threat of being kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf.

Dozens of foreign reporters have been flocking to Zamboanga City to cover the six-month war games.

In 2000, the Abu Sayyaf snatched several foreign journalists who were covering the Jolo hostage crisis.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao earlier said the threat against journalists was real and the military warning was not meant to scare reporters.

He said that other Moro rebel groups operating in the area could also try to "take foreigners hostages."

"Even in Pakistan, that has become a big problem because a Wall Street Journal reporter has been abducted," Tiglao said, referring to American Daniel Pearl, who vanished last month while exploring the underworld of Islamic militants in Pakistan's volatile southern city of Karachi.

With reports from AFP

RP to insist on authority of Filipino commanders–Reyes

From page A1

posed it. The United States wants to retain command over its forces.

Reyes admitted that the signing of the TOR, which has been set for either Wednesday or Thursday, had been delayed because of the opposition.

"We have to be careful that all of, or at least, most of these valid concerns are addressed," he said.

Reyes said no US troops would be deployed in Basilan until the TOR is finalized.

Final draft signed

The "final" draft of the TOR was signed Saturday at the level of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and the commander in chief of the US Pacific Command, according to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

Golez said the three-page TOR settled once and for all the issue of "authority" and "command" over Filipino and American soldiers during the joint military exercise.

"The exercise shall be implemented jointly by RP and US exercise co-directors under the authority of the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," Golez said quoting a portion of the TOR.

"Filipino and American participants shall comply with the operational instructions of the AFP during the exercise," he added.

Guingona had earlier said that he wanted to speak with Powell before he signed the TOR to ensure that the war games would be confined to Basilan and would not involve operations against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and New People's Army.

"As far as the Philippines is concerned, we already have the TOR. Most of its inputs came from (Guingona)," said Jaime Yambao, head of the Visiting Forces Agreement Commission (VFACom).

"Now, we will hear from the Americans. The ball is in their court," Yambao said. He said the Philippines and the US panels would have to agree on the contents of the TOR.

Asked whether the Philippines expected major changes in the TOR, Yambao said it "will all depend on the reaction of the Americans to the draft."

Victoriano Lecaros, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs, had earlier said the TOR was already "good as approved" by both governments because the draft had been discussed by Philippine and US military officials before this was submitted to Guingona and Powell for final approval.

Guingona and Powell are members of the Ministry of Councils that has the power to approve the TOR.

Lecaros likened the TOR to documents prepared at summits of heads of state.

EASY rider aboard a US buggy roams the grounds of the Southcom headquarters in Zamboanga City. VAL HANDUMON

"Before a document or an agreement is read by the heads of state during a summit, all the foreign ministers have gone through the nitty-gritty of the draft. The heads of state affixing their signature to the declaration is just a formality," Lecaros said.

The same is true with bilateral or trilateral agreements, according to the DFA spokesperson. He said all Guingona and Powell had to do was to give their go signal to the final draft.

Last signatories

"Guingona and Powell will be the last signatories to the TOR," Lecaros said.

As for Powell's signature, Guingona said, Powell could designate any US Embassy official in Manila to sign the TOR on behalf of the US government.

Guingona acknowledged that the delay in the signing of the TOR was Powell's unavailability. The Balikatan exercises are expected to officially kick off this Friday, Feb. 15.

In Camp Aguinaldo, Reyes said no US forces would be placed under Filipino command at the operational level.

There will be two "parallel" structures in Mindanao when the Balikatan starts, according to Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu.

One is for "operations" while the other is for "training."

"As far as operation is concerned, I am the overall commander and I have with me Task Force Comet," Cimatu said when asked if Wurster would be placed under his command.

He said the training component was headed by two directors—Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio and US Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster.

"They are not part of the chain of command as far as operations are concerned," Cimatu said during an interview with defense reporters.

"The visiting (US troops) in the tactical units under Task Force Comet are just there as observers. They are not part of the chain of command of that battalion or that company. So there is no worry about the chain of command," he said.

In cases of emergency, Cimatu said American troops would be told to stay put and would be given operational instructions.

"But they are not allowed to maneuver as they are not part of the organizational operation," he added.

In the Senate, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to leave the "Balikatan" to Guingona so the two could thresh out whatever differences they have on the joint RP-US military exercises.

Biazon said the President should instead focus on the country's worsening economic situation.

"She is an economist, not a foreign relations or defense expert," he said.

Police role

Can police investigate and file charges against US soldiers who commit crimes during the "Balikatan 02-1" exercises?

While the TOR has not been signed, the police have formulated a set of guidelines on the investigation of crimes involving American soldiers.

Under the guidelines, local police units can investigate American soldiers who commit "heinous crimes" outside their "line of duty" and can file charges if evidence warrants, according to Deputy Director General Rex Piad, head of the PNP directorial staff.

The US military, however, will exercise jurisdiction over American soldiers who commit crimes during the exercises, he added.

"We came up with these guidelines following clarifications from our local policemen on what they should do in a given situation," Piad told reporters.

Under Philippine laws, heinous crimes include rape, murder, kidnapping. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and TJ Burgonio*

Gov't, critics urged to stop name-calling

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in combat operations on Philippine territory in a purely internal conflict."

"We are putting the blame directly at her doorsteps," Jose V. Bautista, counsel for the militant groups, told reporters after filing the petition.

Name-calling

In a forum sponsored by the Bishops-Businessmen Conference (BBC), Bishop Antonio Ledesma of the prelate of Ipil in Zamboanga del Sur advised both the government and its critics not to resort to name-calling and instead discuss the issue based on its "merits and demerits."

Ms Macapagal drew heavy criticisms when she called opponents of the military exercises "Abu Sayyaf lovers" and "not Filipinos."

"I feel she was rather emphatic in trying to deliver the message," BBC co-chair Jose Concepcion Jr. said.

Concepcion admitted that the statement might be "divisive."

Former Sen. Wigberto Tañada appeared to have been offended by the President's statement. "I am not an Abu Sayyaf lover, a protector of terrorists, a cohort of murderers," he told a BBC forum in Makati.

He criticized the President for reducing the debate on the war games into "a simplistic argument that if you're not with us, you're against us."

Instead of lashing out at its critics, the administration should address legitimate issues being raised against the joint military exercises, according to Tañada.

He said the main issue against the Balikatan was the government's decision to keep its objectives under a veil of secrecy.

"I question the wisdom of an executive policy, which has not been transparent about the real mission and objectives of these so-called war games, its type of training exercise, duration, area, forces, concept of training and logistics involved," he said.

Tañada said the war games were a big insult to the Armed Forces of the Philippines "for being inutile in routing a small, ruthless bandit gang."

He said the war games were a bigger insult to the President for lacking the political will to undertake a top-to-bottom cleanup of the military.

He urged Malacañang to address the possible presence of nuclear components in US equipment, toxic wastes and illegitimate children supposedly left by the Americans.

"I'm not seeing ghosts from a distant Cold War past," he said.

Speaking at the same forum, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez assured that national interest and sovereignty would not be jeopardized in the Balikatan exercises.

He described critics of the war exercises as a "doubting spouse," a "father who refuses to accept support for his family out of false pride."

CBCP's qualified support

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines reiterated its support for the government's decision to tap US military support in crushing the Abu Sayyaf.

But the CBCP urged the government to spare civilians in the military action and to ensure the constitutionality of its military cooperation with the US government.

In a position paper, the CBCP said a military solution to the Abu Sayyaf problem should only be taken as "a last resort."

It said the involvement of American troops should be in accordance with the Constitution. "If legal arrangements forbid any combat role, the law must be religiously observed.

"They come as invited visitors to help. They must not overstep the limits of their assistance by imposing on the host country whatever ulterior motives and agenda they might have," the CBCP said.

While the Catholic Church gave its qualified support to the war games, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines strongly denounced the entry of the United States in the country.

"It will not resolve the issue. Worse, the volatile situation may escalate into a full-blown war," the NCCP said in a statement.

Elizeo Mendoza Jr., Notre Dame University president, said the CBCP was supporting the war games mainly out of frustration with the military's failure to neutralize the bandit group.

No quick fix

"There is no quick fix to the Abu Sayyaf problem because the root cause of the problem is multifaceted—it is social, political, economic and cultural," Mendoza said.

At the Supreme Court, Bautista said the petition was in support of the petition for certiorari earlier filed by Arthur Lim, former national president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, to stop the war games.

Bautista said he recognized the doctrine of the immunity from suit of a sitting President. However, he insisted that the immunity question was "not absolute but is merely doctrinal."

In the House of Representatives, the President earned more criticisms for calling those against the war games anti-Filipino.

Too arrogant

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula assailed the President for being "too arrogant" in a privileged speech.

"Removal of citizenship is not among the powers vested in the presidency. But humility (should be) one of the inherent values of the office," Jaraula said.

Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad said the President could win more support if she were more sensitive to the Filipino culture.

"That (speech) comes in too strong. Filipinos are more agreeable if you use some *cariño*," said Abad, president of the Liberal Party which is part of the pro-administration coalition.

Abad said Filipinos were particular about SIR (smooth interpersonal relationships).

"If you come in too strong, you antagonize a lot of people," Abad said. *With a report from Juliet L. Javellana*

Bishop credits US troops for improved peace and order in Basilan

By Armand N. Nocum

THE PRESENCE of US soldiers in Zamboanga City has improved the peace and order situation in nearby Basilan,

Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad said that Church attendance in Basilan had increased and that people could walk the streets freely and sleep soundly.

"More and more people are now attending Church services because there are no longer threats of burning of churches and kidnappings of priests and nuns by the Abu Sayyaf," Jumoad told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

But he added that the heightened effort of the Philippine military to go hard on the terrorist group also helped the improved situation in the island.

"Things have begun to improve in December, long before the American soldiers came to our shores," he said.

At the height of the Abu Sayyaf's reign of terror, people were cautious about leaving their homes because of "so many threats . . . that they will burn the cathedral, kill the priest, kidnap the sisters and burn the town."

Jumoad said he was open to the idea of the American military helping Filipino soldiers fight the Abu Sayyaf.

'All we want is peace here in Basilan," he said over radio dzRH. "If the Americans could give it, then why reject the offer?"

He said local officials also welcomed US help, but he stressed that the US military should be mindful about respecting human rights.

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Saturday chess classes set

MILO Checkmate will hold Saturday classes for the first time at St. James College in Quezon City on March 2-31. Open to kids who are 5-18 years old, registration is now accepted at the school's cashier office. For more details, contact the Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560, and 0916-852-1069 or e-mail at: milochess@edsamail.com.ph.

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◉ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Villanova vs Connecticut at 8 a.m., Kansas vs Texas at 10 a.m. on ESPN

NBA All Star Saturday at 9:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA All-Star Game at 4:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

GOLF: Golfglobe 2002 at 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

PBA: Shell favored vs Red Bull today

GAME TODAY *(Philsports)*
6 p.m.—Red Bull vs Shell

By June Navarro

SHELL begins its campaign in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup today against Batang Red Bull at the Philsports Arena.

Reinforced by shooter Askia Jones and an untested import in 6-foot-9 Derrick Grimm, the Turbo Chargers are the sentimental favorites over the Thunder as they kept an intact lineup after two months of wheeling and dealing in the off-season.

Save for defensive ace Chris Jackson and rookie Chris Calaguio who were loaned to the national training pool, Perry Ronquillo's wards possess the same firepower as before with only a few additions.

Rookies Edwin Bacani, Frederick Canlas and Rainier Sison will team up with veterans Benjie Paras, Gerry Esplana, Jun Marzan, Michael Hrabak and Rob Wainwright.

Together with Jones, they were the same guys who steered the Turbo Chargers to a semifinal finish in the same conference last year.

The Turbo Chargers were swept by the San Miguel Beermen, 3-0, in the semifinal encounter after Shell's offensive nucleus crumbled due to injuries.

"We'll just try to maximize everything we have. We lost Chris (Jackson) to the national team so I hope the locals would create things to fill the void he left," said Shell coach Perry Ronquillo.

Jackson and Calaguio will see action for RP Team-Selecta, which is facing the Beermen on Thursday.

While the Turbo Chargers enjoy an almost cohesive lineup, the Thunder added a new dimension to their squad to cushion the impact brought about by the loss of Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi to the national team.

The Thunder hired former Barangay Ginebra standouts Noli Locsin and Vince Hizon to strengthen Red Bull's system as far as leadership is concerned.

Along with imports Julius Nwosu and Joseph Bunn, Hizon and Locsin are anticipated to lend some experience to the Thunder's third season in the league.

The Thunder captured last year's Commissioner's Cup over the Beermen with Junthy Valenzuela, Jimwell Torion, Willie Miller, Lordy Tugade, Jose Mendoza, Harp, Pennisi and reinforcement Antonio Lang performing well beyond expectations.

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All coil rear suspension	✓	✓	✓	✓
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD w/ LCD TV	✓	—	—	—
Side mirrors w/ demister	✓	—	—	—
Roof rack w/ rails	✓	—	—	—
Alloy wheels	✓	—	✓	—
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
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Airbus, Boeing throw support to PAL Interclub

AEROSPACE giants Airbus Industrie and Boeing Corp., along with popular entertainment channels MTV and E! Television, lead the cast of sponsors for the upcoming 55th Philippine Airlines Interclub golf tournament in Bacolod, organizers announced yesterday.

Joining Airbus, Boeing, MTV (Nation Broadcasting Corp.) and E! as major sponsors of the event are ABS-CBN International, Fortune Tobacco Corp., and Premier Wines and Spirits.

The tournament is also supported by 11 corporate sponsors: PLDT, Tanduay Distillers, Asia Brewery Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Century Park Hotel, University of Mindanao Broadcasting Network (UMBN), W-Rock, dwWW, Crossover 105.1, GE Aircraft Engines, and Taylor Made Adidas Golf Philippines.

Rounding out the list are minor sponsors CNN, Boysen Pacific Paint, Mandarin Oriental Hotel and Marco Polo Hotels.

One of the enduring traditions of Philippine golf, the PAL Interclub is universally acknowledged as the national amateur golf team championship.

This year's competition, dubbed "Shootout in Sugarlandia," will be played from Feb. 27 to March 2 at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club in downtown Bacolod City and the Bacolod Golf and Country Club in nearby Murcia.

Preceding the regular Men's event is the 16th Seniors Interclub, to be played by the clubs' senior players, from Feb. 22 to 24.

The Interclub sponsors will also have their own side tournament on March 2.

A record number of teams—71 in the Men's and 57 in the Seniors—will see action in the week-long competition.

Recto-Avena rules Mango Tee; Tommy shines

RUSTY Recto and Abe Avena went home with the overall title even as O.V. Espiritu and Tommy Manotoc won the battle for the low gross plum in the recent 18th Mango tee, the annual member-guest invitational of the Alabang Country Club sponsored by Smart Communications.

Recto, 14-handicapper, and 6-handicapper Avena proved too good for their rivals in Class B, bagging the top award disputed by no less than 250 teams with their solid rounds of 81-80.

Their combined 161 aggregate equivalent to 17-under-par gave them a two-point win over eventual Class C winners Edgardo Espinosa and Manuel Ozamis who had 77-82 for a 159 total.

Manotoc tallied a gross one-over 71 while Espiritu backed him up with an eight-over 64, beating the likes of Iggy Clavecilla-Francis Gaston, Jingky Tuason-Manoling Chan and Jose Cervantes-Alex Montelibano.

Club president Francis Jimenez and chair Farley Ampil handed out silver trophies to the division winners and ceramic trophies to the overall champions whose name were etched on the huge permanent trophy.

This year's Mango Tee also got the support of Mitsubishi Motors by way of the hole-in-one prizes which were not won. More than P2 million worth of tournament and raffle prizes were given away.

Also topping their respective divisions were Mike Romulo and jungolfer Tonton Asistio (74-73-147) in Class A, Boy Aldana and Teddy Tiqui (75-76-151) in Class B and Paul Cortez and Leslie Limsico (78-76-154) in Class D.

West wins . . .

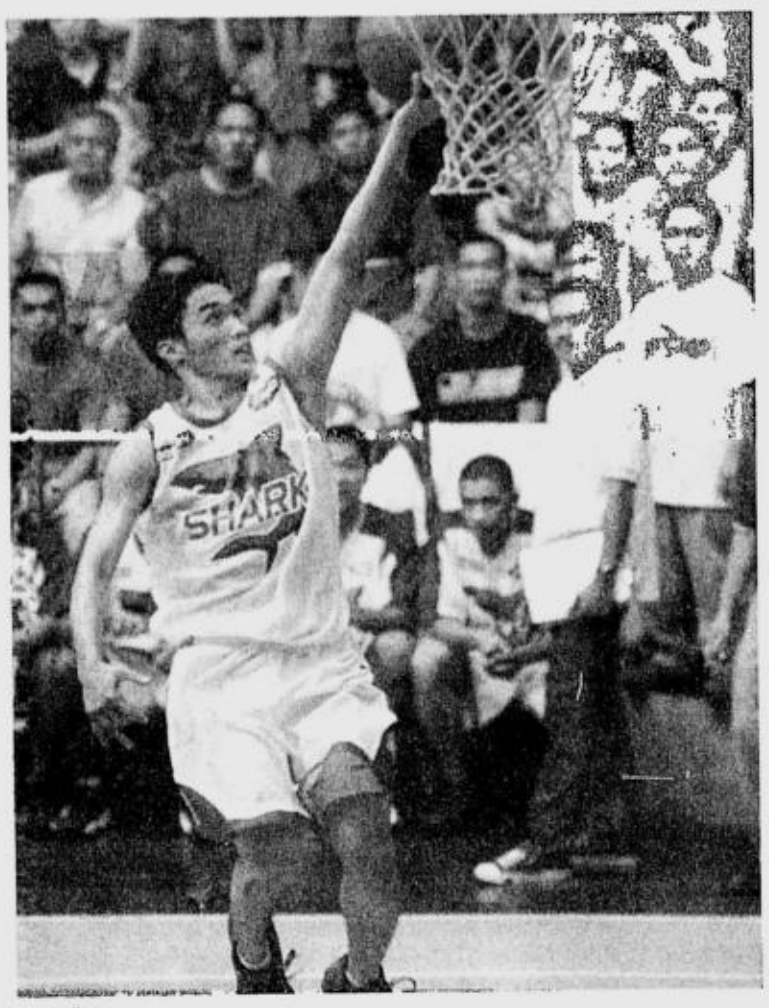
From page A22

sylvania, and whose father, Joe, played for the 76ers, played with tremendous hustle and flashes of flair in helping the West build a big halftime lead that they never surrendered.

But he was booed nearly every he touched the ball, and when the game ended and he was given the MVP trophy, they let him have it long and loud one last time.

"What made me feel good though, at the end, was that the more people booed, some people started clapping and cheering even harder. That made me feel good," Bryant said.

Bryant became the first player to reach 30 points since Jordan did it in 1993, and he relegated Jordan, hometown hero Allen Iverson and every other All-Star into an afterthought by thoroughly dominating the game nearly every moment he was on the floor. ***AP***



YBAÑEZ Shark's spark plug.

Shark wants to keep lineup of champion squad intact

By Dennis U. Eroa

AFTER keeping its PBL Challenge Cup title, Shark Energy Drink now focuses its sight in keeping the services of eight players, including finals MVP Warren Ybañez and up-and-coming slotman Ervin Sotto, whose contracts have already expired.

"I don't think it will hurt if we keep the roster of a champion team," said Shark mentor Leo Austria.

Aside from Ybañez and Sotto, those with expired contracts were Michael "Topex" Robinson, Rolly Basilides, Jing Rodriguez, Rico Limare, Jun Balares and Gerald Ortega, picked by the PBL Press Corps as defensive player of the year.

In earlier interviews, Sotto, Ybañez and Robinson express hopes that they will continue playing for Austria.

Still with live contracts are Clarence Cole, Rysal Castro and Ysmael Junio.

Austria said he is also looking at the PBL draft slated on Feb. 25 at the Makati Coliseum to plug the holes left by Chester Tolomia and Gilbert Malabanan, now with Barangay Ginebra.

"I expect a tougher tournament next conference. We're going to have the edge if we're going to parade an almost intact lineup," said Austria.

Sy reelected PBL chair anew

DSS Productmakers Inc. CEO Dioceldo S. Sy has been reelected anew as chair of the Philippine Basketball League in the recent team owners' meeting held at the Edsa-Shangri-La Hotel.

Sy, owner of both Blu Detergent and recent back-to-back Challenge Cup champion Shark Energy Drink, hopes to further bolster PBL's programs with PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad for the 2002 season.

"We were inspired by the bigger success we achieved this year, and we are now mapping out the ground works to further intensify our programs and come up with more exciting projects and games," said Sy.

Elected vice chair was Lamoiyan Corporation president and CEO Cecilio K. Pedro who replaced Welcoat's Raymundo Yu while Shark team manager Jesse Chua was retained as treasurer along with Kutitap team manager Bernard Yang who was tapped to replace Welcoat's Dennis De Guzman.

Also retained as corporate secretary is lawyer Noli Eala.

The PBL 2002 season is tentatively set to unfold on March 15, kicking off with the President's Cup.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Joseph Bulatao clocked 2 hours, 22 minutes to smash the RP marathon record of 2:23.19 and win the 8th Pilipinas International Marathon in Manila. Also today in 1993, Baguio City topped the 5th Cordillera Administrative Region Athletic Association in Baguio City

SPORTSWATCH

Iverson fails to repeat MVP showing

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson was wearing Julius Erving's retired No. 6, but he'll have to wait at least another year to equal Dr. J's two All-Star MVP trophies. Iverson, last year's award winner, finished Sunday with five points on 2-for-9 shooting as the West beat the East 135-120. He played only 25 minutes and sat out for most of the fourth quarter. In last year's All-Star game in Washington, Iverson scored 15 of his 25 points in the final nine minutes, as the East came back from a 21-point deficit to win 111-110. "The guys we have that normally are knocking down shots were just not making shots the entire game," East coach Byron Scott said. "When we did get a run going, we got the game within 13. But then we went ice cold again. And you have to give them credit on the West, because they started to guard again." AP

Jordan misses dunk, rebound and lot more

PHILADELPHIA—The one thing missing in Michael Jordan's second comeback has been the spectacular, highlight-reel dunk. Given a chance to do one on the ultimate showboat stage he made the blooper tape instead. On a solo breakaway late in the first quarter of the All-Star game, with no player within 20 feet of him, Jordan's one-hander rattled off the back rim and out of bounds like a rookie's bad do-over candidate at the slam dunk contest. Players, fans and everyone else gasped in disbelief while Jordan laughed at himself - what else could he do? - and he took a lot of playful grief from anyone who went near him during the next five minutes. The flub was the climax to a sometimes spirited, sometimes passive Jordan performance in his 13th All-Star game. Unable to suppress his competitive juices, he played 23 minutes - nearly double what he vowed he would play in the name of needed rest - and scored eight points on 4-for-13 shooting Sunday in the East's 135-120 loss to the West. His numbers fell far short of his career 21.3-point All-Star game average, tops in the game's history. AP

Olazabal clinches Buick title

OLAZABAL

SAN DIEGO —Jose Maria Olazabal shot a 7-under-par 65, then watched it hold up for victory in the Buick Invitational when J.L. Lewis three-putted No. 18 to blow his shot at a playoff Sunday at Torrey Pines. It was Olazabal's first PGA Tour victory since he won his second Masters in 1999, and his sixth tour win overall. The Spaniard, who like Tiger Woods made the cut on the number, finished with a 72-hole total of 13-under 275. "I feel like I played very, very well over the weekend," said Olazabal, who shot a 67 in the wind on Saturday. The wind never came up Sunday, giving golfers perfect conditions under a cloudless sky. Lewis, trying for his second tour victory, tied for second with Mark O'Meara at 276. Both shot 70s, as did John Daly, who finished fourth at 277. Woods, winless on tour this year, finished strong with a 66 - two days after his near-disastrous 77 - to tie for fifth with Bob Estes and Rory Sabbatini at 278. AP

Johansson leads Sweden over Britain

NEW YORK — Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson, who has been struggling with a groin injury, was a late nominee Sunday but still too much for Greg Rusedski as Sweden came back from 2-1 down to beat Britain 3-2 and advance to the quarterfinals of the Davis Cup. Defending champion France, Spain, Russia and Croatia also advanced after Sunday's reverse singles while 31-time champion the United States, Argentina and the Czech Republic advanced Saturday. In Birmingham, Thomas Enqvist won the first reverse singles match, beating Tim Henman 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 to level the score for Sweden. Johansson then won 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4. AP

Venus tops Gaz de France

PARIS —Venus Williams won the Gaz de France final on Sunday when Jelena Dokic withdrew with an injury - and the world No. 2 hinted she might cut her season short to concentrate on her studies. "I'd like to take the fall off and go to school," Williams said after claiming her trophy. The 22-year-old player, who is studying fashion design in Florida, has said she felt torn between her studies and her tennis career. Sunday's forfeit handed Williams the 23rd WTA Tour title of her career. The American player said she was disappointed not to have won it on-court. "It's not really like you've won. But I suppose you're the last one standing," Williams said. The fourth-seeded Dokic said she was hurt during Saturday's 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 semifinal victory over Monica Seles and aggravated the injury in a doubles match later that day. AP

Valentine derby at Mandaluyong

THE ANNUAL "RLB Valentine 6-Cock Derby," one of Mandaluyong Coliseum's biggest crowd-drawers, will have its elimination round at 7 p.m. today with Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo as sponsors. The finals is on Thursday. The two-day cockfest will be hosted by veteran gamefowl breeder Richard Bates, who invited some 40 big-time cockers and breeders. Mandaluyong Coliseum also presents the 5th Ucap/Arnis Master 7-Cock Derby on Feb. 19 and 21, to be hosted by consistent derbyist Raymond Velayo. On Feb. 26 and 28 is the Luzon Gamefowl Breeders Association (LGBA) 6-Cock Derby. For inquiries, contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Olympian association formed

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso L. Dayrit announced yesterday the formation of the Philippine Olympian Association.

Named charter officers were Rafael Hechanova, chair; art Macapagal, president; and Ral Rosario, secretary general. Hechanova was a member of the basketball team which competed in the Helsinki Olympics in 1952 while both Macapagal and Rosario competed as a shooter and a swimmer, respectively, in the 1972 Munich and 1976 Montreal Olympics.

According to Dayrit, these three will meet shortly to craft the organization's charter.

All Olympians are requested to get in touch with the POC Secretariat at Room 357, PICC, tels. 8342432/36 or fax their names, addresses and other particulars to 8342434.

The POA is expected to hold its first fellowship gathering in June simultaneous with the celebration of Olympic Day.

UST rules tennis tilt

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas scored a double victory in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) tennis tournament after winning the men's and women's title last Sunday at the Valle Verde Country Club courts.

Led by Most Valuable Player Pius Ocampo, the Tigers dethroned Ateneo de Manila, 2-0, while national player Ma. Edna Charise Godoy powered the Lady Tigress to a title sweep.

The Tigers took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three final showdown after Ocampo outclassed Enrique Anthony Filamore, 6-0, 6-1, and clinched the victory when Gabriel Edward Remigio and Art Thomas Calingasan won the doubles over Stanley Ong and Francis Gerard Abacan, 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (3).

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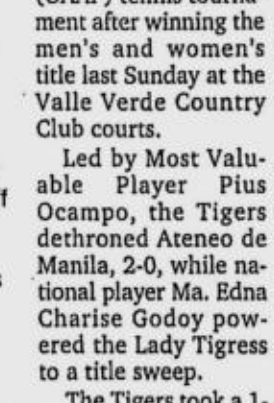
Bert best bet

I AM giving way to Bert Cuevas of the Manila Standard in today's presidential elections of the Philippine Sportswriters Association. Had I known he would run, I would not have thought of running. He is more deserving than me. I promise to support him during his incumbency. To all those who immediately tossed in their support the minute they heard about my plan to run for president, thank you from the bottom of my heart. When Bert's term ends and I will again decide to run—with Bert's blessings, of course—I hope you will support me again. Meanwhile, I enjoin my fellow PSA members to support Bert, the friendliest sports editor I've ever known.

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

PBA: Shell favored vs Red Bull today /A20 Shark wants to keep champion squad intact /A21

West wins; Kobe MVP

BRYANT

PHILADELPHIA—The booing began when Kobe Bryant was introduced, continued after he made a series of game-turning plays and reached a crescendo when he was handed the All-Star MVP trophy.

Back in his hometown where the fans show him no love, Bryant received none Sunday. Instead, he was practically treated like a traitor by the notoriously harsh Philadelphia fans.

"I was pretty upset," Bryant said. "The boos were hurtful, but it's not going to ruin this day for me."

Bryant scored 31 points - the most in an All-Star game since Michael Jordan had 40 in 1988 - in the arena where he walked off the court last June with his second championship, leading the Western Conference over the East 135-120 on Sunday.

Bryant, who grew up in Lower Merion, Penn-

WEST WINS/A20

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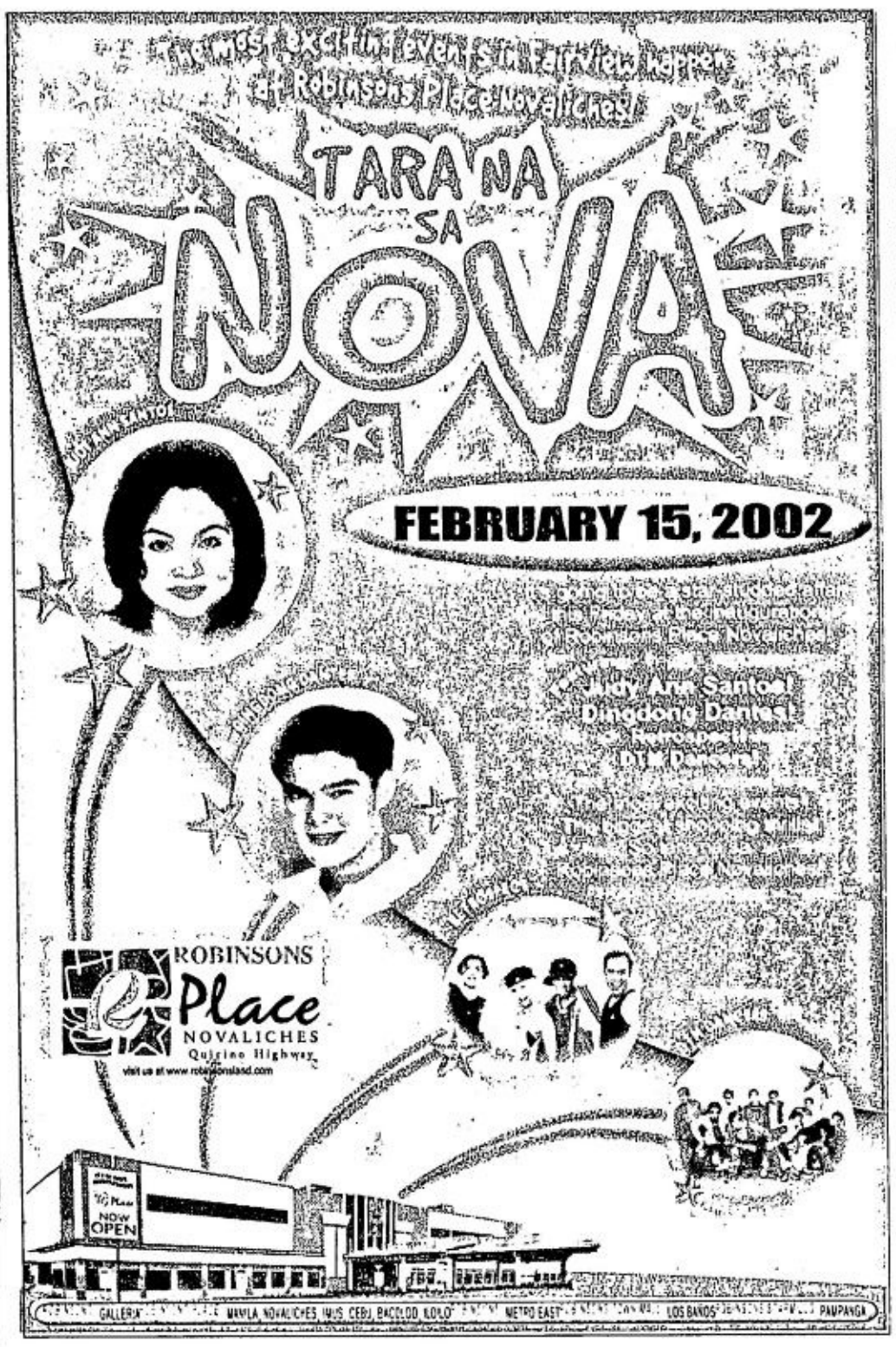

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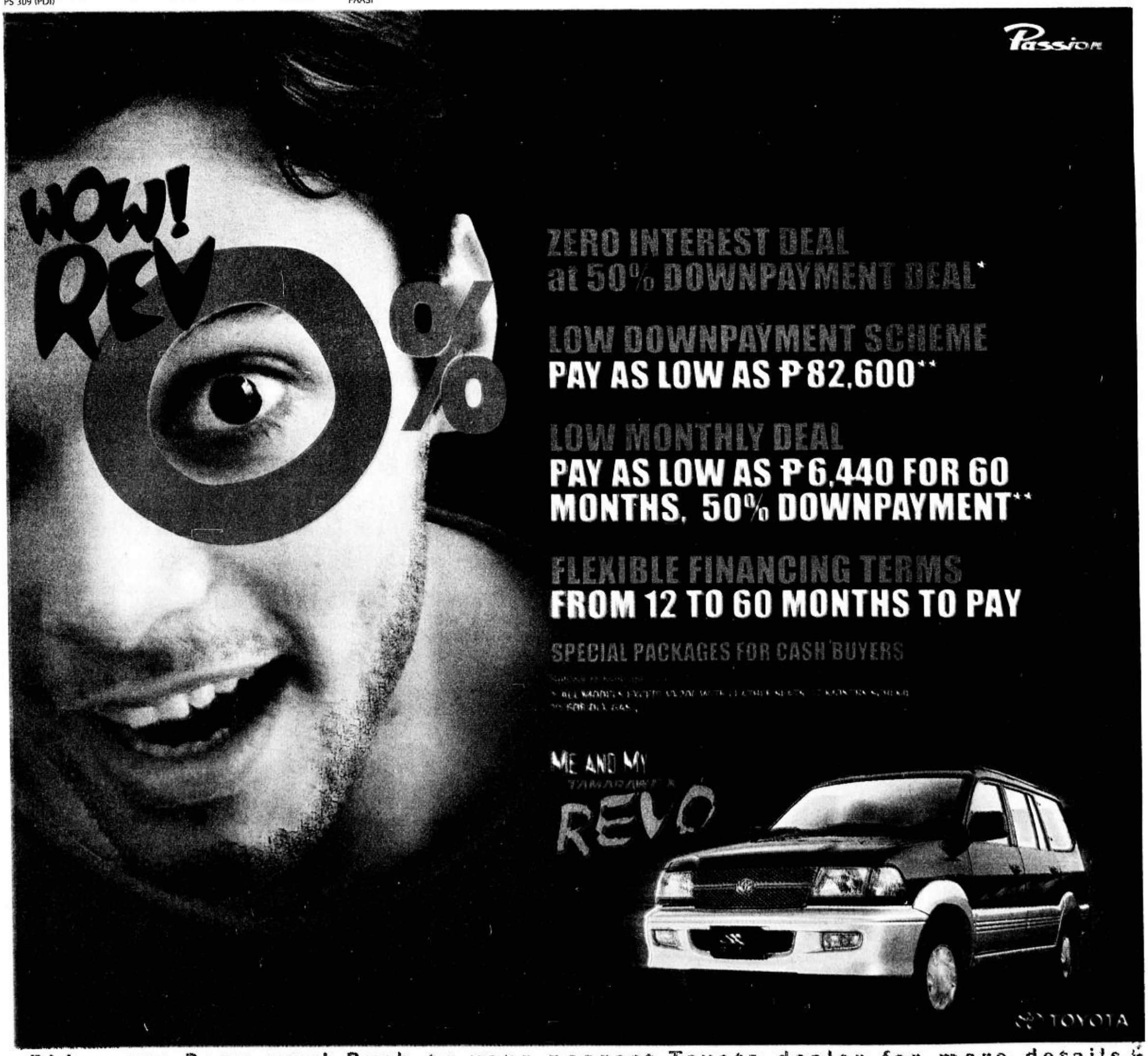

METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

Cities as sisters

MANILA and Hanoi will soon be sister cities, according to Manila Councilor Lou Veloso's resolution that the council is set to approve soon. Hanoi a few months ago proposed the agreement, which includes the exchange of information and visits, joint personnel training, business relations and developmental cooperation. *Jerome Aning*

Atienza slams 'ukay-ukay' ban

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday said the national government's ban on the sale of "ukay-ukay" or used clothes is "unjust and detrimental to legitimate entrepreneurs." "What's wrong with wearing second-hand clothes if they're the only thing you can afford?" he said. *Jerome Aning*

Mayors seek MMDA intervention

'Public service, not politicking, should be our concern'

By Christian V. Esguerra

PUBLIC service and not politicking should be the primary concern of mayors and congressmen, Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad said yesterday.

Trinidad, as spokesperson of the Metro Manila mayors, asked the Metro Manila Development Authority to intervene in the reportedly brewing rift between mayors and congressmen in the metropolis.

Wenceslao said "it's our constituents who would suffer" in the end if the mayors feuding with their congressmen would not settle their differences and coordinate with each other in the implementation of projects in their cities and districts.

Wenceslao asked MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to mediate between mayors and congressmen.

But even without MMDA's intervention, the warring mayors and lawmakers should initiate dialogues to settle the issue amicably, according to the Pasay City mayor.

Last week, Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga criticized the Taguig-Pateros district congressman, Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, for allegedly refusing to coordinate his projects with the local government. These projects include Cayetano's P25-million sports complex, which is supposed to rise in a municipal property now occupied by a basketball court.

Cayetano, whose family is a long-time rival of the Tingas in Taguig politics, said it was Tinga who had been refusing to issue permits for the congressman's projects.

"I think the issue is just about politics," Trinidad observed. "There would be no problem if only mayors and congressmen would talk about the issue, say, over a cup of coffee."

Trinidad said he never had coordination problem in Pasay with his congressman since they always discussed their projects with each other.

"This way, we are able to avoid overlapping of projects," he said. "If I feel that my congresswoman's project is good, I'm willing to give way and realign my budget for another project."

TRINIDAD

The problem of coordination or the lack of it goes beyond Taguig.

In Valenzuela, Rep. Magi Gunigundo admitted that he and Mayor Emmanuel Carlos sometimes encounter problems over certain projects.

Although they both belong to the administration party, the Valenzuela congressman and the mayor have often figured in heated verbal clashes, involving some projects or credit for certain programs.

Gunigundo had pointed out that it is the local government that should coordinate with the national government regarding its projects. He said the national government would have the final decision over projects anyway. But Trinidad said mayors and congressmen should both initiate the coordination to avoid further complications in the implementation of their projects.

Aglipay: I did not lie

By Jerome Aning

AGLIPAY

DIRECTOR Edgardo Aglipay, the chief of Metro Manila police, yesterday said he was not lying when he told the INQUIRER last week that the National Police Commission never ordered him to stop the transfer of policemen who are absent, tardy or wear improper uniform in roll call formations.

"I did not lie, I just didn't know (that there was an order)," Aglipay said in a phone interview yesterday.

The National Capital Regional Police Office chief was reacting to the accusation of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association that he "lied" when he said there was never a directive.

Aglipay said he only learned about the Napolcom order when it came out in the newspapers last Wednesday.

Manila's Finest distributed copies of the order to reporters on Tuesday.

The police general also complained that National Police Commission vice chair and executive director Rogelio Pureza did not even bother to inform or summon him about the policemen's complaint questioning the transfers.

"I wasn't given an opportunity to present our side so I was quite surprised when the Napolcom came up with the decision," Aglipay said.

In an order dated Jan. 31 but issued the following day, Pureza asked the NCRPO and other regional police officers to stop the transfers and return all reassigned personnel to their mother units.

Pureza said other police units should not be the dumping ground of perceived undesirables and that due process must be observed when punishing erring lawmen.

The order, however, had markings indicating that copies of it were to be distributed to all regional police offices.

Aglipay insisted that the transfers are a "managerial prerogative." He said the Supreme Court in a recent decision backed the right of supervisors to transfer police personnel.

He explained that the posts left by those transferred to the provinces would be filled up by 503 new police graduates. After the 503 are "settled," all reassignments will be within the NCRPO's jurisdiction, according to him.

He said the Philippine National Police chief, Director General Leandro Men-doza, knew about the Napolcom order and would have the final say on the transfer controversy.

So far, Mendoza has not yet made any declaration on the matter. Aglipay said he would be willing to accept and follow whatever decision the PNP chief makes on the issue.

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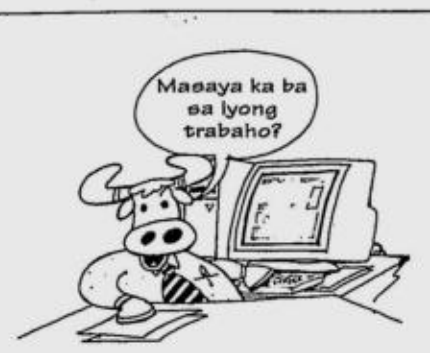

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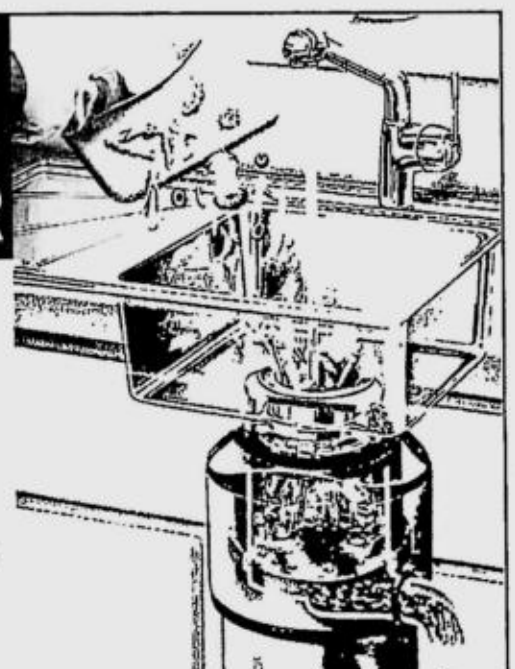
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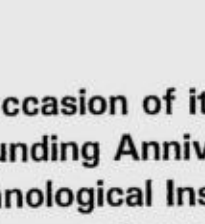
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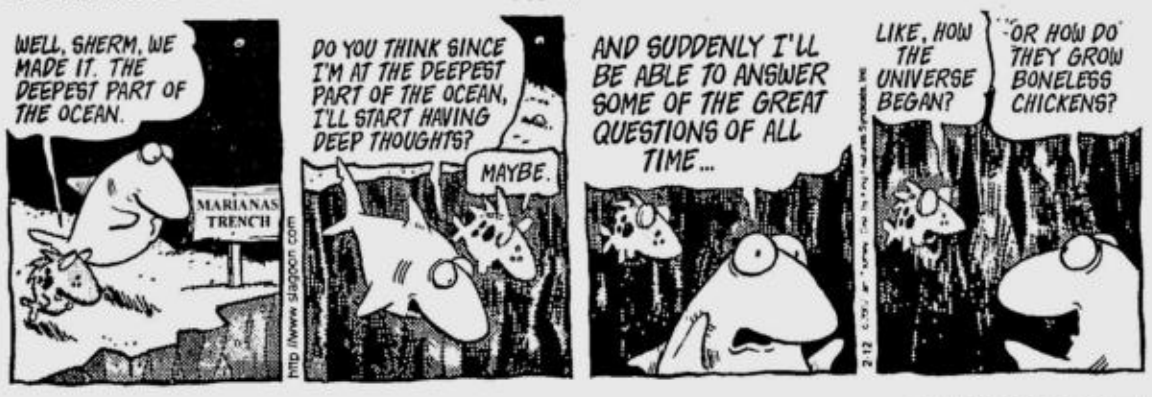


SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL CUISON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Arsenio Hall, Judy Blume, Abraham Lincoln, Christina Ricci

Happy Birthday: You will get involved in some interesting moneymaking ventures this year. Any career changes you pursue will be favorable as long as you are true to yourself. You can raise your earning potential if you work hard. Your numbers are 4, 15, 21, 30, 33, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be in a playful mood today. Love and romance will be highlighted if you get involved in unusual forms of entertainment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may not be too rational when it comes to affairs of the heart. One-sided infatuations are likely to lead you in the wrong direction. Focus on doing your job well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be ready to take on the world if you put your mind to it. Your ability to talk your way in and out of anything will help you achieve success.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let anyone burden you today. If someone asks you to help with financial matters, take a pass. Uncertainty will result in losses that you can do without.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Love and romance are likely to evolve if you are affectionate toward someone who interests you. You will be quick to try something new and equally as quick to change your mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you concentrate on professional gains you should find yourself getting ahead. Someone you work with may be jealous of your abilities. Don't be too trusting; keep your intentions and ideas to yourself for the time being.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take time out of your busy schedule in order to do some of the things you enjoy most. Plan an outing with a good friend or do something enjoyable with the children in your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may want to keep a low profile at home. If you can put in overtime, do so. The less time spent with family, the better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be hankering to get away on a new adventure. Your past experiences will help you make the right choices. The changes you make will help you achieve your goals.

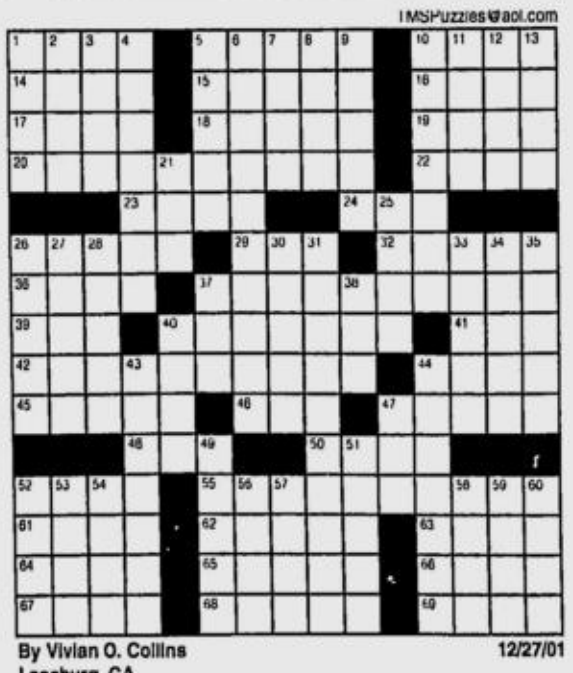
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will have what it takes to get ahead professionally. Put your best foot forward and don't look back. Use your added discipline to finish what you start.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may appear to be a little erratic but that's just because you have so much on your mind. Settle down and concentrate; once you are focused everything else will fall into place.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone may be talking behind your back. Don't give anyone any reason to doubt you. An older relative may need your help. Do what you can but don't neglect your own projects.

Birthday Baby: You will attract honorable and wealthy partners throughout your life. You will have opportunities to meet people in high positions. Your interest in humanitarian matters will raise your profile and your popularity.

DAILY CROSSWORD



IMSPuzzles@aol.com

By Vivian O. Collins
Leesburg, GA

12/27/01

ACROSS
1 Winery vessels
5 Minor fights
10 Sword handle
14 Pronto letters
15 Star hunter?
16 Smell
17 Alone
18 Jane of "Klute"
19 Stag attendee
20 Solid-state circuit component
22 __ of Wight
23 Cleansing agent
24 Writer Deighton
26 Seiji's stick
29 Forever and a day
32 Nouveau __
36 German industrial region
37 Summer portal
39 Existing
40 Thick soups
41 Altar of stars
42 John Marin's art
44 Off. underling
45 Argentine grassland
46 Q-U connection
47 Arrive at
48 Consume
50 Composer Stravinsky
52 Stalk
55 Neighbor of Guatemala
61 Judd Hirsch sitcom
62 Words to live by
63 Sound of music
64 Sheriff Taylor's boy
65 Preceding in order
66 Baker's need
67 Cockatoos and cocker spaniels
68 Gilliam or Jones
69 Musical pause

DOWN
1 Immense
2 Hebrew lyre
3 Samoan cash
4 Promoter
5 Bulgaria's capital
6 Forty-niner, for example
7 Questionable contraction?
8 Kind of list
9 Entanglement
10 Homo sapiens
11 Lupino and Tarbell
12 Droop lazily
13 Copse element
21 Bart, to Homer
25 Sea eagles
26 Donnybrook
27 Of the ear
28 Greek letter
30 Certain examinations
31 Mediator
33 Shore
34 Jazz pianist Jankowski
35 Greek Muse
37 Assn.
38 Ending of profit?
40 Malayan outrigger
43 Foes
44 Aquarium requirement
47 State off.
49 Entice
51 Eclat
52 Freezel
53 Finish line
54 Way out
56 Traditional knowledge
57 Mix up
58 Bird of peace
59 Possessive pronoun
60 Flat fee?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

G	A	F	F		A	L	M	A		C	O	R	D	S
O	L	L	A		W	O	O	L		O	P	A	R	T
I	G	O	R		A	R	N	O		R	E	N	E	E
N	O	R	A		K	I	T	H	A	N	D	K	I	N
G	L	A	N	C	E		H	A	L	E				
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P	L	A	I	T		S	E	E		E	G	G	A	R
A	U	L	D		B	Y	E	S		C	H	E	S	T
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				R	E	E	S		A	N	N	U	L	S
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A	V	E	R	T		G	I	R	D		L	I	P	O
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A	N	N	E	S		R	E	L	Y		W	H	E	E

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12/27/01

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BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

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LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

ROTC slay suspect surrenders

By Philip C. Tubeza

ONE OF four suspects in the killing of University of Sto. Tomas student Mark Welson Chua surrendered to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) over the weekend, according to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Wycoco yesterday presented to the media Arnulfo B. Aparri Jr., 20, also a UST student, who surrendered to the bureau on Feb. 9 with the help of his lawyer, Abner L. Roxas, and the Philippine Army reserve command. Aparri declined to answer media questions, referring them to his lawyer.

The NBI has also prepared for the extradition of another suspect, Michael Von Rainard Manangbao, who is in the United States.

Authorities are also looking for suspects Eduardo Tabrilla and Paul Joseph Tan. The Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18 has issued warrants for their arrest.

Agent Primitivo Najera, of the NBI Anti-Organized Crime Division, said four witnesses identified Aparri as one of the students present in the office of the UST Reserve Officers Training Corps when the suspects were covering Chua's face with packing tape and wrapping his body with a carpet on the night of March 15.

> Wycoco said his men are preparing for the extradition of suspect Manangbao, who fled to the United States last October

Chua's body was found floating in the Pasig River on March 18. He was wrapped in a carpet and his face was wrapped in packing tape. He was also hogtied.

His death came after he exposed alleged corruption in the UST ROTC.

Wycoco said the bureau was not eager to get the cooperation of Aparri in their investigation of Chua's killing, but said the young suspect might help in the inquiry if he volunteers to speak about the crime.

"I asked some of my agents (about Aparri becoming a state witness) but they said the case is strong enough (to convict the suspects)," Wycoco said.

Wycoco said his men are preparing for the extradition of suspect Manangbao, who fled to the United States last October.

"We're trying to find out his location," Wycoco said. "Then we will request for his extradition."

Mangabao's father is Cabanatuan police chief Ruel Manangbao. Immigration authorities confirmed that the younger Manangbao left the country on board a Philippine Airlines flight bound for Los Angeles last Oct. 5.

No water in Tondo for 9 hours

RESIDENTS in the area bounded by San Simon, Road 10, Zaragosa and Del Pan streets in Tondo, Manila will have no water for nine hours today from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Maynilad Water announced yesterday.

Maynilad Water said the water service interruption will pave the way for the inspection and dry-run for the closure of the 400mm mainline on San Simon near Road 10.

Affected residents are advised to store water. They may also call the Maynilad Hotline 1626 for the water rationing schedule.

GMA should punish MILF for kidnappings

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE MILITARY has said that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was behind the abduction of a Korean and a Filipino hotel owner in Sarangani on Feb. 6.

It was the first time the government identified the Moro rebel group as kidnappers.

Before, police and military authorities were very careful in not mentioning MILF's participation in cases of kidnapping for ransom. The government did not want to hurt the sensibilities of the MILF with which it is negotiating peace.

***

Even if the government knew that the MILF was behind the kidnapping of several individuals, it attributed the crime to the Pentagon Gang or the MILF "lost command."

This is BS! The Pentagon Gang and other kidnap-for-ransom gangs composed of Moros, past or present, do not operate without the blessings of the MILF high command.

And there is no such thing as an MILF lost command or whatever one calls a group composed of supposedly MILF renegades.

It's a good thing the government has come to its senses. It now calls a spade a spade.

***

But peace can never be attained in Maguindanao, Cotabato, Sarangani and other parts of Central Mindanao if the government continues to be tolerant of the depredations committed by the MILF.

There's a perception among the non-Muslim inhabitants of Mindanao that if you gave a Moro your finger he would want to have your whole arm. You guys from Luzon and the Visayas would not know the character of a typical Moro because you haven't dealt with him up close and personal. Ask an Ilonggo farmer in Cotabatao, whose father probably fought Moro rebels in the early 1970s, and you'll know what I mean.

The government should send a clear message to the MILF rebels that if they want peace, they must first look at themselves in the mirror. The reflection in the mirror—if the mirror does not shatter—would tell the MILF rebel, or any other Moro rebel or bandit for that matter, that he's the one creating trouble for himself and other people in Mindanao.

***

Here's an unsolicited piece of advice for President Macapagal-Arroyo: If you want the MILF to be kept in line and at the same time win the sympathy of the majority Christian population of Mindanao, don't buckle under in dealing with the Moro group. That also goes for other Moro groups like the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Abu Sayyaf.

Deposed President Estrada still has a big following in Mindanao, even if he's been discredited, because he was the only president since Marcos who whipped the MILF for its excesses.

Erap declared an all out-war against the MILF Moros to make them realize they are citizens of the Philippines and they should follow the country's laws.

Erap's iron fist policy against the abusive MILF was so popular that his sagging poll ratings went up during the war against the MILF.

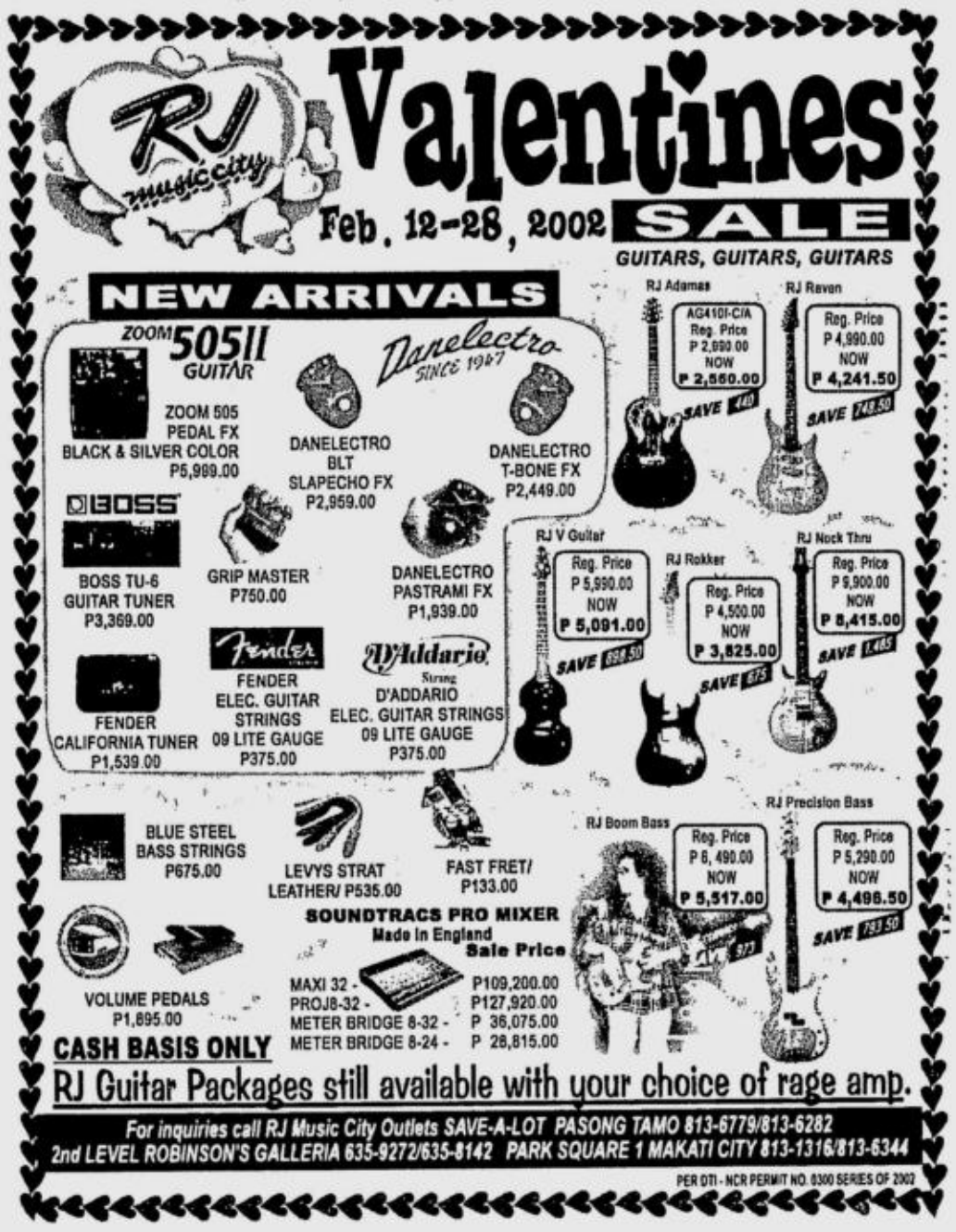
***

Marcos. Cory Aquino. Fidel Ramos. In their desire to appease the Moros, they spoiled the Moros.

Marcos gave Moro rebel leaders logging concessions, import concessions and other perks and privileges. Ms Aquino resurrected MILF leader Nur Misuari from obscurity at a time when he was already forgotten by his followers after a long absence. Ramos made Misuari governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

It took Erap, who has little brains, to make the Moros toeing the line.

GMA should take advantage of the military aid given to us by the United States by telling the Moros: "Enough is enough, the government will no longer put up with your spoiled-brat behavior."



Two life sentences for shabu dealer

By Christian V. Esguerra

A PASAY CITY judge yesterday sentenced to two life terms a Chinese businessman who was caught with two kilos of shabu during an anti-drug operation four years ago.

The national police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group caught Anson Ong on April 7, 1997, following a tip from an unidentified female informant.

In his 12-page decision, Judge Porfirio Macaraeg did not buy Ong's claim that the police framed him, and convicted the businessman for the crime of drug possession.

Macaraeg also fined Ong P200,000.

But during the proceedings, the judge "wondered" about the testimony of the arresting officers, as if they were "trying to hide or cover up for something or someone."

The judge noted that the arresting lawmen were only interested in pursuing the case against Ong, but refused to give details on a second drug suspect who was arrested in the same operation but appeared to have been let off the hook.

"(The lawmen) would say 'I cannot recall' or 'I don't know' to most of the significant queries from the court, especially those relating to the circumstances on how the (second suspect) who took hold of the buy-bust money was able to elude arrest," Macaraeg said in his decision.

According to court records, a female informant told CIDG lawmen that she arranged a drug deal with Ong at the Heritage Hotel on Edsa in Pasay City.

Ong, also known as Allan Co and Ong Pok Piw, arrived at the hotel on a car and gave the female informant and an undercover policeman a kilo of shabu, which the accused took from under the car seat.

When the undercover lawman turned over the marked money to Ong, the accused handed over the loot to a second man standing on the other side of Ong's car. The second man then threw the drug money to a third man who was driving by in another car, records showed.

The undercover lawman then gave the signal for the CIDG operatives to move in and arrest Ong and his companions.

Police recovered another kilo of shabu from Ong's car and the drug money. They also arrested the man who was driving the second car, but failed to get the third man.

Judge Macareg wondered about the second man who was arrested and why the police did not vigorously pursue his conviction.

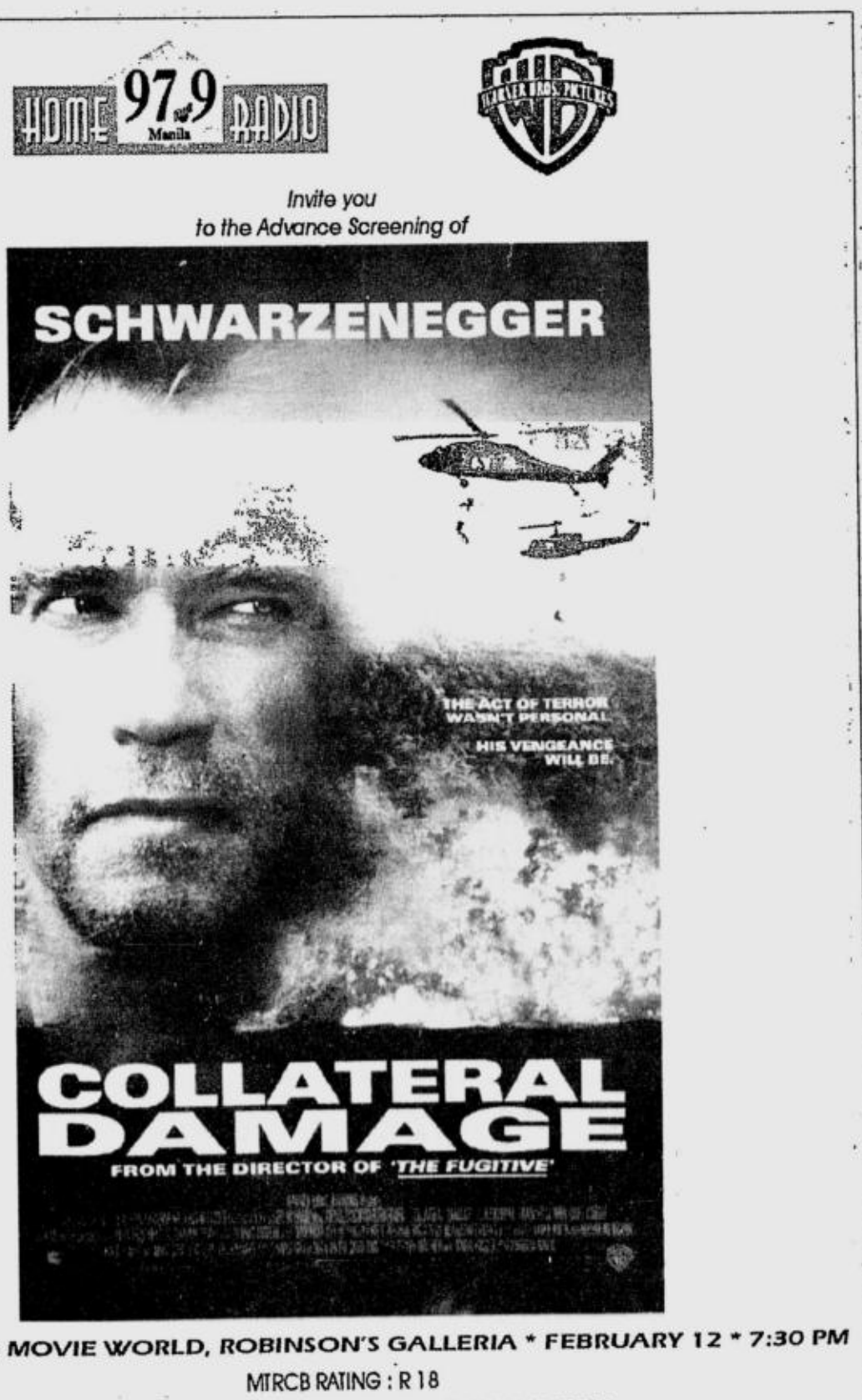
METROBRIEFS

Another Mercury branch hit

SIX men hit the Mercury Drug store branch on Libertad Street and Edsa in Mandaluyong City about 4:30 a.m. yesterday and fled with at least P200,000 in cash and cellular phones. SPO1 Manuel Molina of the Mandaluyong police said four robbers barged inside the drug store while the rest acted as lookouts. Two robbers disarmed the two security guards while their companions ordered the drug store supervisor and three cashiers to lie face down on the floor before taking the store's weekend earnings. Molina said the robbers put the loot in a guitar case. They also took the cellular phones of a guard and a cashier before they fled on board three motorcycles. *Nelson F. Flores*

Hacked over missing cock

COCKFIGHT enthusiast Armando Velasco thought his neighbor Crisanto Regala was having his prized cock for dinner Saturday. SPO1 Romualdo Rabaca said Velasco was looking for his missing fighting cock when he saw Regala, 47, eating what seemed like chicken in front of his house in Barangay Mambugan, Antipolo City. Velasco sparked an argument when he asked Regala about his missing rooster. Velasco lost his temper and hacked Regala in the head with a bolo, SPO1 rabaca said. Neighbors took Regala to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center, where the victim's condition was reported to be critical. Police arrested Velasco, who is now detained at the Antipolo City Jail and is facing frustrated homicide charges. *Nelson F. Flores*



Revo
- Jessie Jimena
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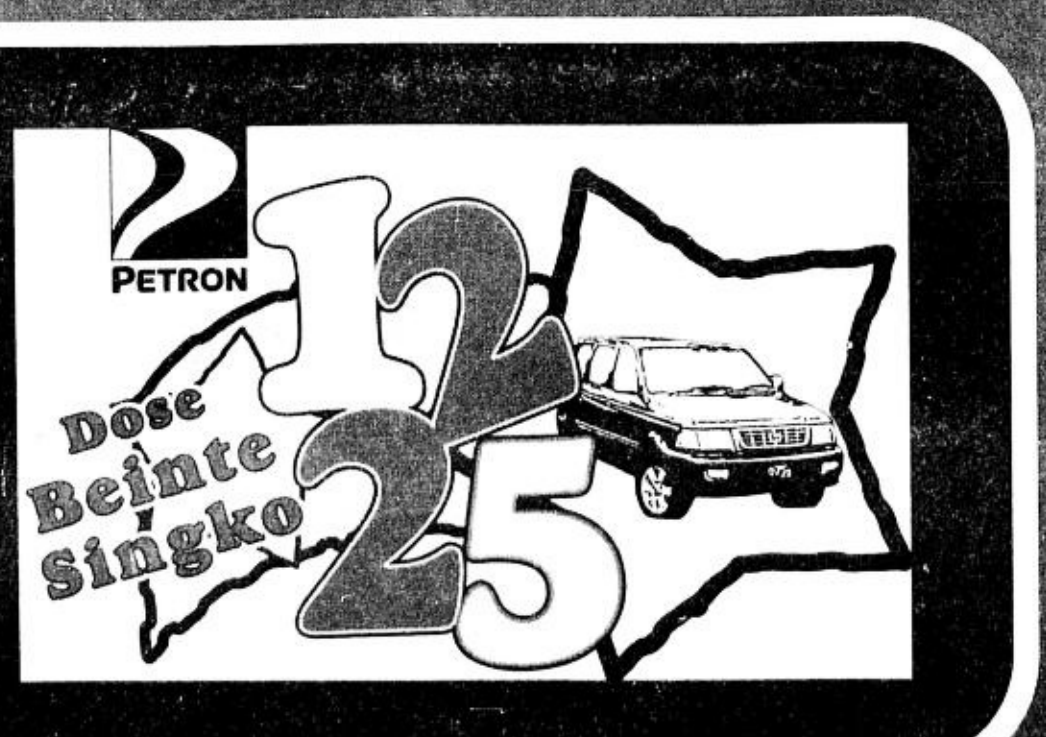
- Nestor Baclohan
(Ticgahon, Bangkal, Lapu-Lapu City)
- Jerome Sol
(Bgy. Ma-ao, Bago City, Negros Occidental)
- Catherine Corregidor
(Palo, Leyte)

Multicab
- Jaime Capundan
(Maghay, Dao, Capiz)
- Teodoro M. Pasco
(Sunny Hills, Talamban, Cebu City)
- Remelito A. Tabu
(South Poblacion, Negros Oriental)
- Alfonso Biboso
(V&G Subd., Tac

Honda Motorcycle
- Jose Ruby Songcuya
(San Lucas, Barotac Viejo, Iloilo)
- Rosa Cejudo
(Poblacion, Dalaguete, Cebu)
- Samuel S. Suela
(Espinos Village, Phase 2, Bacolod City)
- Flora H. Estrera
(Bgy. Valencia, Ormoc City)



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(Lower Makar, GenSan)
• Ernesto C. Panal
(Isulan, Sultan Kudarat)
• Beverly Ann G. Edar
(Nasipit, Agusan del Norte)

3rd prize
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(Misamis Oriental)
• Thelma Arocha
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• Brenda N. Tamora
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• Mario Gadiono
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• Lucresio A. Borgonia
(Tagum City)
• Posdan Sandayan
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4th prize
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3 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	3 VANILLA SKY (DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	3 BLACK HAWK DOWN (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)
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1	
2	EARTHQUAKE
3	KAULAYAW

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7854

1	HUSTLER
A	KAULAYAW

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	KAULAYAW
2	HUSTLER
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	BLACKHAWK DOWN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
2	
3	
4	HUSTLER
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	KAULAYAW
7 (DTS)	FROM HELL
8 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 (DOLBY)	MARSHALL DICK

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	KAULAYAW

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	VANILLA SKY
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	KAULAYAW
6 (DOLBY)	KATE & LEOPOLD
7 (DTS)	FROM HELL
8	HUSTLER
9	MARSHALL DICK

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	FROM HELL
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW
4	HUSTLER
5 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	REBULOSYONARYO
7 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
8	KATE & LEOPOLD

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	KAULAYAW
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	HUSTLER
5 (SDDS)	VANILLA SKY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	REBULOSYONARYO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	REBULOSYONARYO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	KAULAYAW HUSTLER

Mandaluyong
MARKETPLACE tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	FROM HELL
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	KAULAYAW

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	FROM HELL
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	REBULOSYONARYO

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	KAULAYAW
3	HUSTLER
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	FROM HELL

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	
2	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	KAULAYAW
2	HUSTLER

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HUSTLER
2	FROM HELL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS)	KATE & LEOPOLD
3 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
4	FROM HELL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	KATE & LEOPOLD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	BURLESK KING
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 METRO TOWN
TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)

1	FINAL ANSWER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
4 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HUSTLER
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW
4 (DTS)	MARSHALL DICK

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	FROM HELL
2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 415.0311

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	FROM HELL
2	WOLF GIRL
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 430.1657

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	FINAL ANSWER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	VANILLA SKY
4 (DTS EX)	SUMMER CATCH

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

PREMIERE CINEMA THX NOW SHOWING

SNEAK PREVIEW
"SHALLOW HAL"
Starring GWYNETH PALTROW & JACK BLACK
R-TIME : 1:50 RATING : PG 13
DATE : FEB. 11 & 12, 2002 (Monday & Tuesday)
THEATERS : GOTESCO CITY, GOTESCO GRAND, GOTESCO COMM., GOTESCO ORTIGAS, MARKET PLACE, CITIMALL, SUPER CINERAMA, FESTIVAL, METROPOLIS, STARMALL, ALIMALL, PREMIERE THX, OLIVAREZ BIÑAN, OLIVAREZ LOS BAÑOS, LIANAS CALAMBA, WALTERMART, PAVILLON, TARGET MALL

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GALLERIA 632-9118-19 / 633-7041 loc. 279

1	VANILLA SKY
2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE AND LEOPOLD
4	MARSHALL DICK
5	BLACK HAWAK DOWN
6	FROM HELL
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	ISANG PANAGINIP
9	REBULOSYONARYO
10	THE OTHERS

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	VANILLA SKY
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	THE OTHERS
4	KATE AND LEOPOLD
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7	FROM HELL

METRO EAST
#682-8103, #682-8193 #682-8199, 682-8280

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	VANILLA SKY
3	THE OTHERS
4	KATE & LEOPOLD
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	FROM HELL
8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	KATE AND LEOPOLD
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	FROM HELL
7	MARSHALL DICK
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

IMUS
(046) 471-8108

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4	VANILLA SKY
5	FROM HELL
6	KATE & LEOPOLD

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453 / 0458

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	BUKO PANDAN

ILOILO
(033) 330-9077 / 9078

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	GIRL FEVER

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	ISANG PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KATE AND LEOPOLD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	MARSHALL DICK
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	KAULAYAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	HUSTLER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	2 PISNGI NG PAG IBIG / OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	FROM HELL
ODEON-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ROBEN	KAULAYAW
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE SCORE / WOLF GIRL

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAULAYAW
REMAR	KAULAYAW
REMAR-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HUSTLER
B	KAULAYAW
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	FROM HELL
CINEMA-2	VANILLA SKY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
CINEMA-3	KAULAYAW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-6	FINAL ANSWER
CINEMA-7	HUSTLER
CINEMA-8	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	BLACK HAWKDOWN
CINEMA-12	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-14	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-15	ISANG PANAGINIP

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	SHALLOW HAL
CINEMA-4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-5	FROM HELL
CINEMA-6	VANILLA SKY

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173068

1	KAULAYAW
2	FROM HELL
3	VANILLA SKY
4	SHALLOW HAL
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	MARSHALL DICK
8	KATE & LEOPOLD

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	GLASS HOUSE
3	VANILLA SKY
4	MARSHALL DICK
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	SHALLOW HAL
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	FROM HELL
9	KATE & LEOPOLD
10	KAULAYAW

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	FINAL ANSWER
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	VANILLA SKY
8	KATE & LEOPOLD
9	FROM HELL
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	SHALLOW HAL
12	KAULAYAW

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	FROM HELL
6	VANILLA SKY
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	VANILLA SKY
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	MARSHALL DICK
12	SHALLOW HAL

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	VANILLA SKY
2	FROM HELL
3	BLACK HAWKDOWN
4	VANILLA SKY
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	KATE & LEOPOLD
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	SHALLOW HAL
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	KAULAYAW
12	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	FROM HELL
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	KAULAYAW
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	VANILLA SKY
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	SHALLOW HAL
10	REBULOSYONARYO
11	FINAL ANSWER
12	THE OTHERS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066068 • 8066782

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	FROM HELL
3	VANILLA SKY
4	KATE & LEOPOLD
5	KAULAYAW
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
10	SHALLOW HAL

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	CORKY ROMANO
5	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	CLOSED
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	CLOSED
8	ZOOLANDER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	THE OTHERS
3	VANILLA SKY
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	SHALLOW HAL
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	KAULAYAW
2	VANILLA SKY
3	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	VANILLA SKY
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ZOOLANDER
3	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	KATE & LEOPOLD

SM BICUTAN

1	SOON TO OPEN!
2	4 NEW
3	STATE-OF-THE-ART
4	VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	SOON TO OPEN!
2	4 NEW
3	STATE-OF-THE-ART
4	VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

1	SOON TO OPEN!
2	2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ENTERTAINMENT

SEE IT FIRST!

SM CINEMA

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
February 11-12

MTRCB RATING: PG13

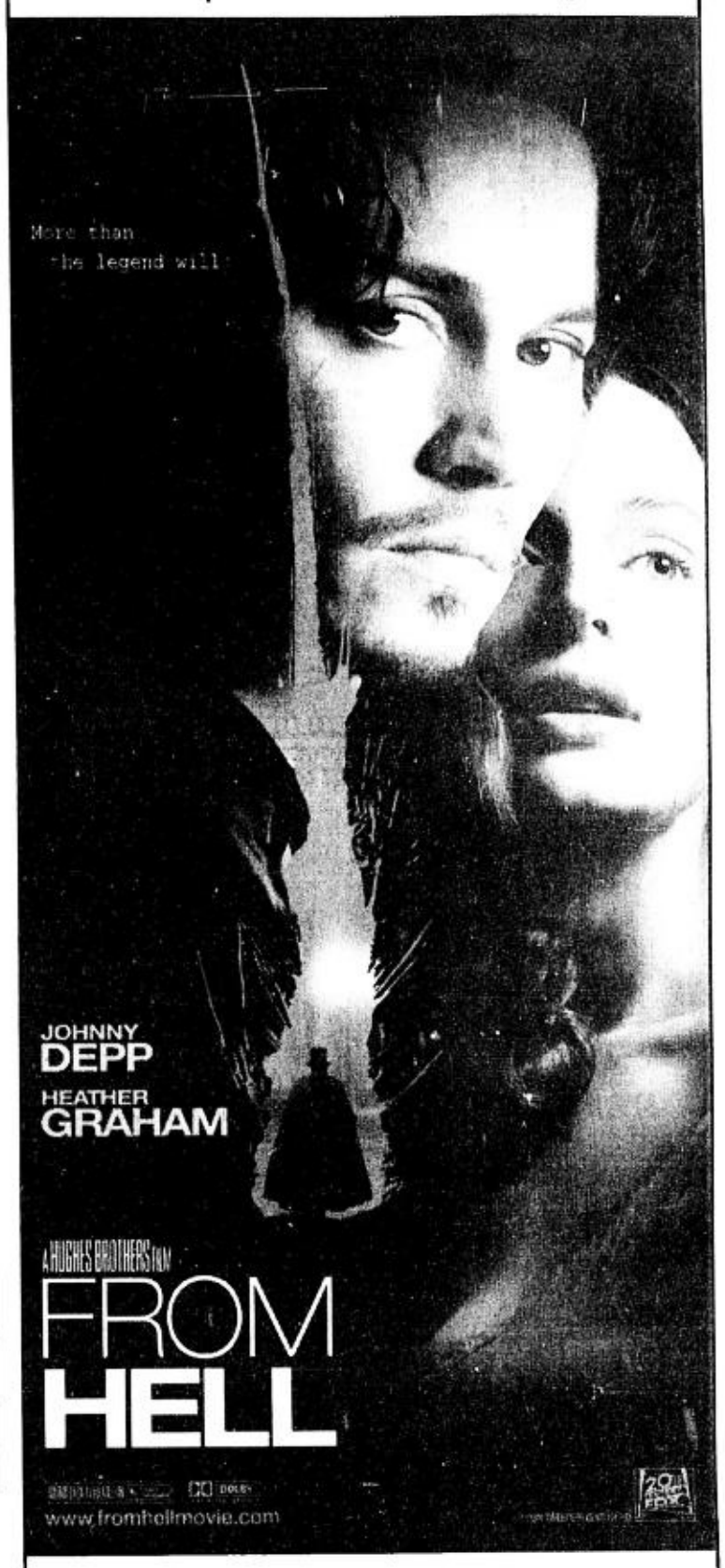
Tickets available at:
SM MANILA • MEGAMALL • CENTERPOINT • BACOOR
SOUTHMALL • FAIRVIEW • SUCAT • NORTH EDSA

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	KATE & LEOPOLD - GP 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	SHALLOW HAL - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
BLACK HAWK DOWN - P 13 12:55, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40	FROM HELL - R 18 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	VANILLA SKY - R 18 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING R-18 | Special thanks to: 93.9 iFM, Wow K-Lite, 99.5 RX



NOW SHOWING

OPENING TOMORROW! SM Megamall Cinema 6

Alejandro Iñarritu's
AMORES PERROS
(Love's A Bitch)
International Critic's Prize, Cannes 2000
Grand Prize, Tokyo Film Festival 2001
ONLY ON
February 13, 6:30 PM
SM MEGAMALL

PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2002

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-New York Times
"An amazing cross-stitch of scenes! Truly a cinematic event!"
-Wall Street Journal
"Amores Perros is an international classic!"
-Newsweek
"A gritty look at lives and domestic affairs. A breakthrough film."
-Time

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MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

"RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS' HAS GOT THE GOODS. DIRECTED SUPERBLY BY PENNY MARSHALL. THE FILM ACCELERATES DREW BARRYMORE'S CAREER, AND PUTS STEVE ZAHN'S INTO OVERDRIVE."
GENE SHALIT, THE TODAY SHOW

"WONDERFULLY ACTED, ESPECIALLY BY DREW BARRYMORE."
RICHARD SCHICKEL, TIME MAGAZINE

"MS. BARRYMORE'S TOUGH-BUT-TENDER PERFORMANCE IS THE CLEAREST PROOF YET THAT SHE HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO STRETCH HER TALENTS INTO LARGE, COMPLEX PORTRAYALS."
STEPHEN HOLDEN, THE NEW YORK TIMES

DREW BARRYMORE
RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS

ridingincars.com

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RELAX & SEE A MOVIE

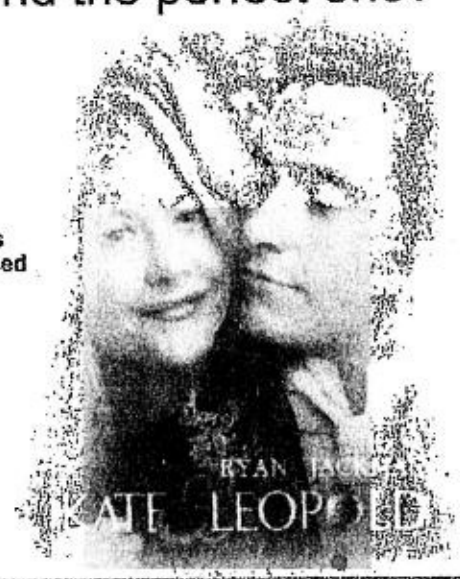
What Drives You to find the perfect one?

What drives you to have a perfect date at Ayala Cinemas?

Get a chance to win a dreamdate at Onstage, TGI Fridays and Ayala Cinemas for every 2 Kate & Leopold tickets purchased at Glorietta 4 and Alabang.

Kate & Leopold opens on Feb 6
Promo Period: Feb. 6 to 19,2002
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0376 Series of 2002

What Drives You
AYALA CINEMAS CALTEX



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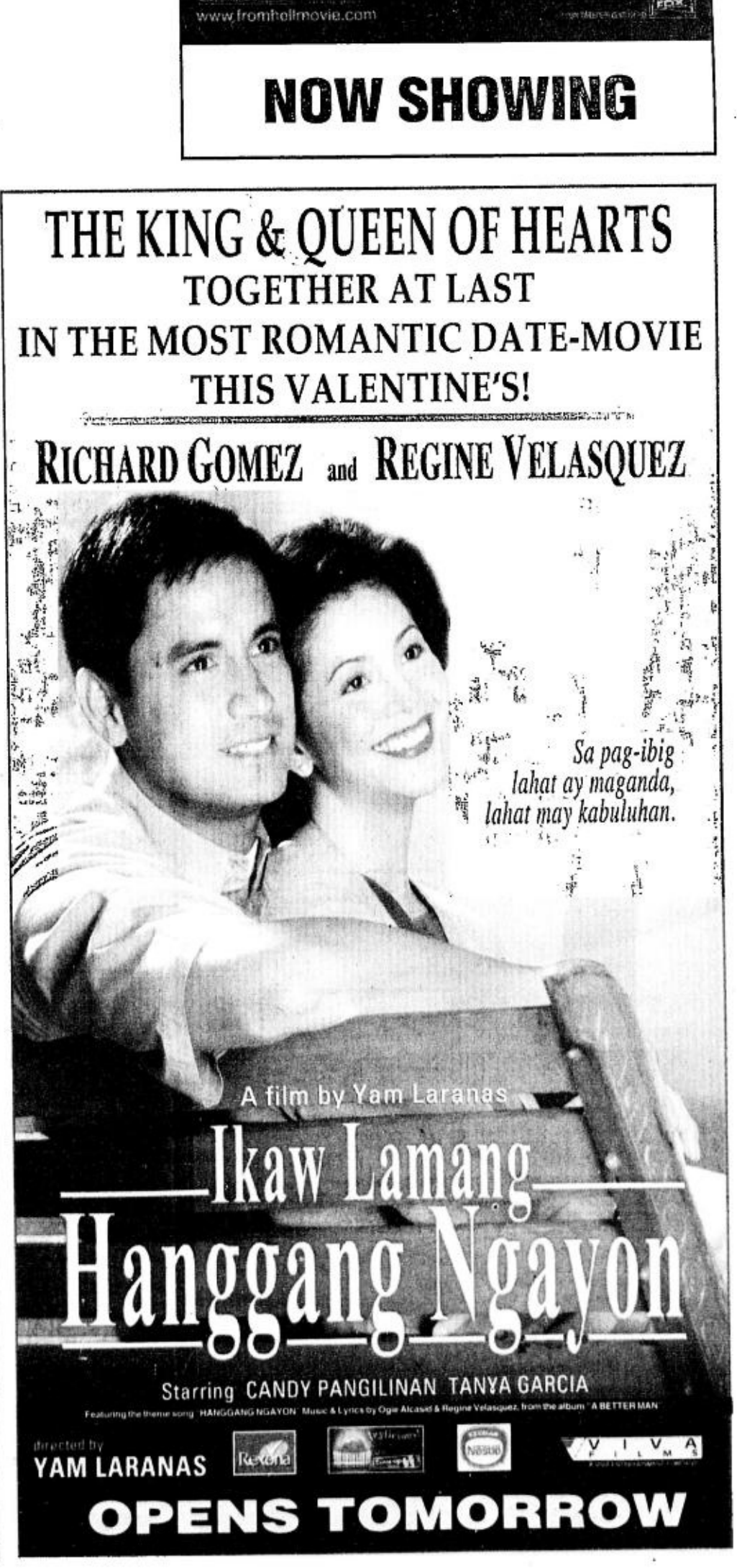
THE KING & QUEEN OF HEARTS
TOGETHER AT LAST
IN THE MOST ROMANTIC DATE-MOVIE
THIS VALENTINE'S!

RICHARD GOMEZ and REGINE VELASQUEZ

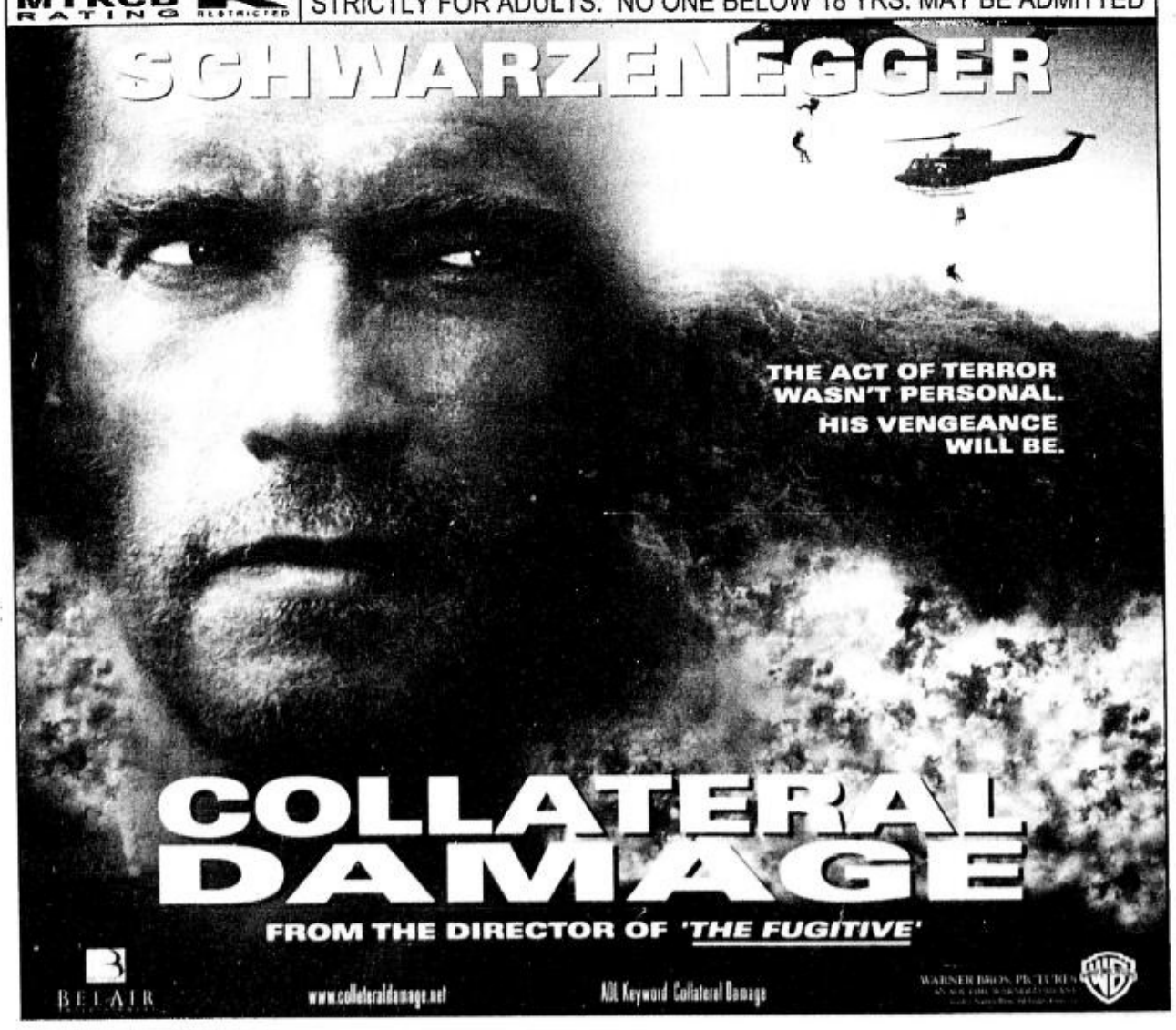


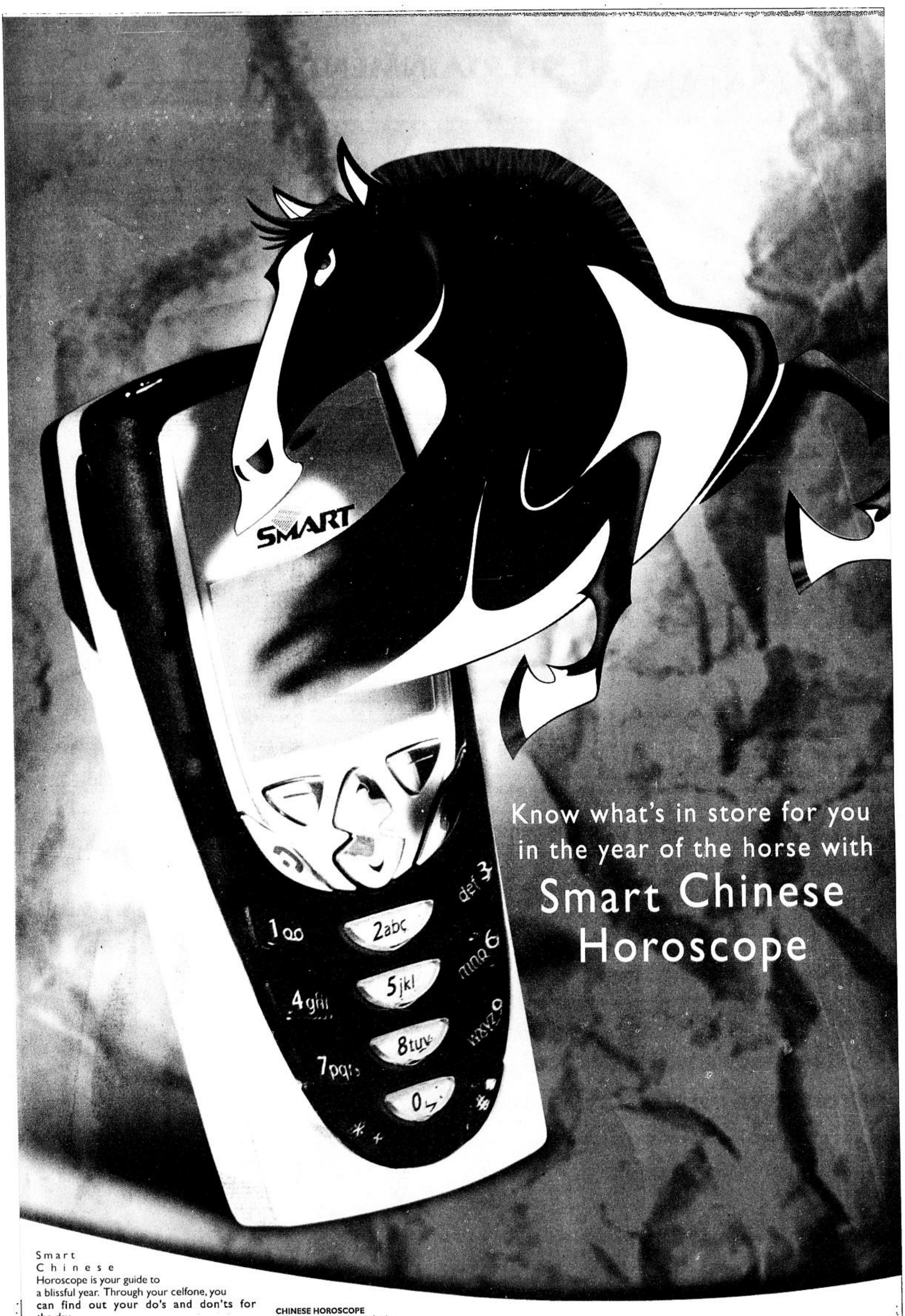
A film by Yam Laranas
Ikaw Lamang
Hanggang Ngayon
Starring CANDY PANGILINAN TANYA GARCIA
Featuring the theme song "HANGGANG NGAYON" Music & Lyrics by Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez, from the album "A BETTER MAN"
directed by YAM LARANAS
Revelon Nissin VIVA FILMS

OPENS TOMORROW

DETONATING ON FEB. 13 NATIONWIDE !

MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS. NO ONE BELOW 18 YRS. MAY BE ADMITTED





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- To get your daily horoscope, key in **CHOR** <mmddyy> and send to 211.

CHINESE MATCH-MAKING
- To know if you and your partner match in business, key in **MATCH B** <your birthday> <your partner's birthday> and send to 211.
- To know if you and your partner match in personal affairs, key in **MATCH P** <your birthday> <your partner's birthday> and send to 211.
- Birthday format should be : mmddyy (eg 021877)

FENG SHUI
- To get a list of Feng Shui categories, key in **FENG LIST** and send to 211.
- To get a list of areas for each category, key in **FENG** <category> and send to 211.
  E.g. **FENG O** (office), **FENG H** (Home), and **FENG S** (Store) Sample areas: kitchen, bedroom, main door
- Get a compass and identify the direction of each area. To get the list of directions key in **FENG DIR** and send to 211.
  Sample directions: North - N, South - S, East - E,...
- To get Feng Shui advice, key in **FENG** <category> <direction of area1> <direction of area2> <direction of area3>...
  E.g. FENG H NW SW NW E SW N SW
- For cure, key in **FENG CURE** and send to 211.
- For help, key in **FENG HELP** and send to 211.

ENGLISH-CHINESE TRANSLATION
- To translate to Mandarin, key in **TRANS M** <English phrase> and send to 211.
- To translate to Fookien, key in **TRANS F** <English phrase> and send to 211.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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MRT gets $170-M German funding

By Abigail L. Ho

EDSA MRT-3 builder Metro Rail Transit Corp. has signed a $170-million, asset-backed securitization (ABS) deal with Hypovereinsbank of Germany to raise funds for the Edsa MRT-3 extension project.

MRTC spokesperson Paul Daza said in an interview that securitization was just one of the consortium members' financing options as funding for the project would have an equity and a loan component.

He disclosed that there were already ongoing discussions with potential lenders even though the National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordination Committee has yet to give its final nod for the group's agreement with the Department of Transportation and Communications.

"The shareholders are looking at different financing options for the Phase 2 extension, one of which is securitization (from which they will be able to) get money now instead of having to wait," he said.

Under the ABS deal, future revenue from the project is converted into liquid funds that the company can use now.

Members of the MRTC consortium are Fil-Estate Management, Ayala Land Inc., Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp., Greenfield Development Corp., Ramcar Inc., Allante Realty and Development Inc. and DBH Inc.

Of these shareholders, ALI and Greenfield chose not to participate in the ABS deal.

The last ABS agreement in the country was done five years ago when JP Morgan arranged a $75-million securitization of air ticket receivables for flag carrier Philippine Airlines, a company controlled by beer and tobacco magnate Lucio Tan.

Daza said other equity-raising ventures by the individual MRTC shareholders were "their own business judgment" and would have nothing to do with the consortium itself.

What would make the securitization deal attractive to potential investors, however, was the fact that MRTC's revenue is guaranteed by the government.

Under the terms of the 25-year build-lease-transfer agreement, the government guarantees a fixed return to the company whatever the load of the Edsa MRT-3.

The DOTC operates the railway system, while MRTC maintains it. MRTC's more than $190-million initial investment in the project is guaranteed a 15-percent return by the government, payable in 25 years, Daza said.

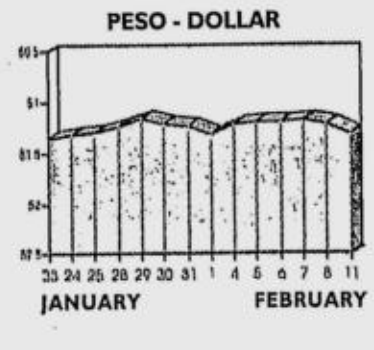
The government also guaranteed MRTC's $465 million worth of loans to Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Japan Export-Import Bank, Postal Bank of the Czech Republic, and the Czech Export

MRT/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.315 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 11, 2002

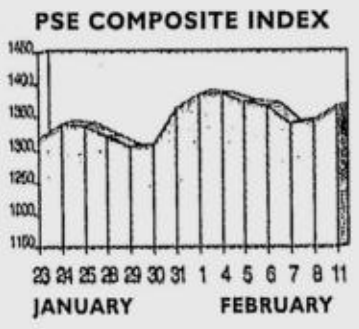
¥133.64 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 8, 2002

GOLD: $301.75/302.75
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 11, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares rise 1.6% on bargain hunting

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SHARES closed higher yesterday, boosted by bargain-hunting on select blue chips and spill over of the positive sentiment in the United States, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index gained 21.61 points, or 1.6 percent, to 1365.96, extending its uptrend to a second straight trading day after rising 4.41 points Friday to 1344.35.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

The broader All Shares Index climbed 8.77 points to 737.66 after declining 6.91 points Friday to 728.89.

Traders said Wall Street's rise Friday on expectation of strong US economic data this week also spurred investors to accumulate oversold stocks. The Dow Jones Industrial Average had risen 1.2 percent, while the Nasdaq Composite Index gained 2.1 percent.

Gainers beat losers 62 to 15, with 27 issues unchanged.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and San Miguel's widely traded "B" shares were among the focus of investors seeking bargain blue chips.

Digital Telecommunications Philippines finished 12 percent higher at 66 centavos on reports it already short listed possible investors for its cellular telephone venture. ***AP***

91-day Treasury bill rate eases to 7.278%

TREASURY bill rates continued to soften at yesterday's auction, with the 91-day yield sliding to 7.278 percent from the previous week's 7.501 percent.

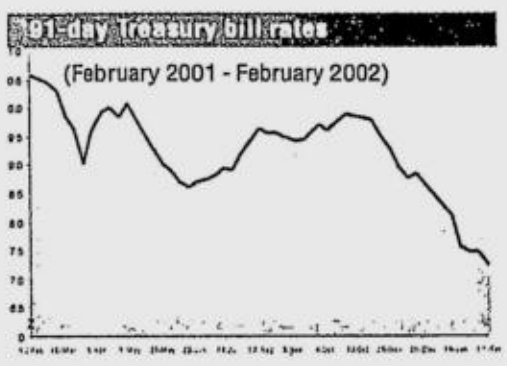
The yield for the 182-day bills also fell sharply to 7.81 percent from 9.955 percent last week as banks tendered P5.017 billion worth of offers. The government awarded the full P1.5 billion for each of the two maturities.

Traders had expected the rates to be flat to marginally lower by five basis points at the regular auction as banks chose to wait for signals on whether the central bank will cut its key rates this week.

Dealers said the fall in the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate had slowed because it had almost touched the level of the central bank's overnight borrowing rate of 7.5 percent.

The central bank's policy-making Monetary Board is set to decide on its key overnight rates at its meeting on Thursday.

Banks are expecting the central bank to cut



rates by at least 25 basis points following the benign annual inflation of 3.8 percent in January.

"The market has turned cautious. Banks are hesitant to move because they are looking for signs on the direction of interest rates," said a dealer from a local bank.

"They are waiting for a rate cut, but most likely the trend is still going down, though the downside is now limited."

Dealers said bonds were the center of attraction in the market as longer-term government securities still offer better yields. The fall in treasury bond yields has not been as rapid as that of treasury bills because of a bigger supply of the securities in the market, one banker said.

The 91-day T-bill fetched a rate of 7.501 percent last week from the previous 7.502 percent. The six-month rate was at 7.955 percent from 8.012 percent.

The 3-month paper was quoted in the secondary market at 7.6 percent while the six-month paper was at 8 percent.

Best bids for the one-year paper was at 8.6 percent, two-year at 10 percent, three-year at 11.4 percent, five-year at 12.675 percent, seven-year at 13.5 percent and 10-year at 14.05 percent.

In the interbank market, the average rate was unchanged at 7.59 percent. Volume rose to P7.29 billion from P5.668 billion, with 18 lenders and 13 borrowers. ***Reuters***

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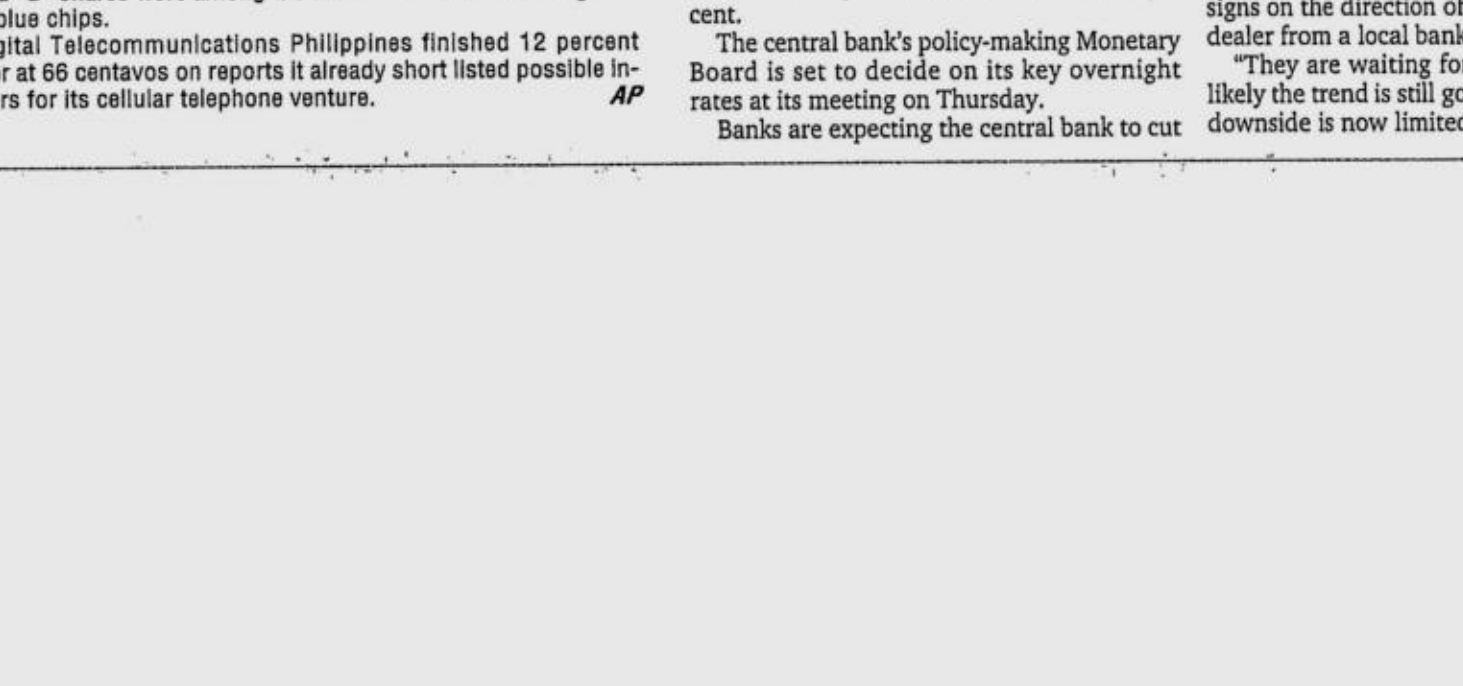

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Photo may vary with actual car.

Filinvest probed for insider trading

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Elena R. Torrijos

HOUSING developer Filinvest Land Inc. is under fire from the Philippine Stock Exchange for possible violation of disclosure requirements related to its recent P1.2-billion bond issue.

This developed as industry sources said a lot of investors lost money from the trading of FLI shares and blamed the company's alleged failure to disclose significant information that had affected the trading of the stock.

PSE president Ernest Leung said FLI had caught the attention of the local bourse but did not say whether there was probable cause for insider trading as alleged by some PSE member-brokers.

"The PSE is continuing discussions with Filinvest regarding disclosures on the bond issue," Leung said, refusing to elaborate.

But other sources said the PSE had placed FLI under scrutiny over allegations from some brokers that somebody might have benefited from insider information on the terms of its bond issue.

FLI, whose shares have been rising in the past few months, announced on Feb. 5 that it had approved the issuance of P1.2 billion worth of convertible bonds to a foreign institutional investor at a conversion price of P1.70 to P1.875 per share. The low conversion price disappointed investors, who thus dumped FLI shares to an intra-week low of P1.86 last week from a high of P2.65.

FLI share prices stabilized on Friday following further details on the bond issue, but a number of brokers still griped about the company's failure to disclose such information sooner.

Thirty brokers have also signed a letter questioning the alleged trading irregularities involving FLI.

In a copy of the letter obtained by the Inquirer, the brokers questioned the failure of FLI to allow existing shareholders to exercise pre-emptive rights.

Another broker explained to the Inquirer that a rights offering to existing shareholders would have allowed them the same opportunity given to the convertible bond investor to acquire FLI shares at a maximum of P1.87 per share, a steep discount over the prevailing market price.

The brokers who signed the petition expressed fear that the FLI transaction would set a bad precedent and erode the confidence of the investing public and tarnish once again the image of the PSE.

Unless the issues raised regarding the FLI transaction were properly addressed, then nothing would prevent other listed companies from pushing through with similar convertible bond issues that undermine shareholders' rights, a broker said.

For its part, FLI had explained that while negotiations with the foreign investor had been going on for months, the deal was finalized only in February. FLI officials were not available for comment as of press time.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, February 11, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	6,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5	96,100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28	28	28	103,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	207	202	205	96,350
Philippine National Bank	75	76	75	76	68,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	6,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	19	19	18.75	18.75	144,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	95,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1330	1340	1330	1340	9,080
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1015	1025	1015	1025	72,220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	31.5	31	31.5	18,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.6	0.66	0.6	0.66	29,300,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	765	750	765	5,680
Ipeople Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	4,100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Piltel	0.51	0.59	0.51	0.58	30,900,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.38	0.4	0.36	0.4	400,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	510	510	505	510	54,290
Ivantage Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.022	19,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	27	27	26.5	27	22,500
Manila Electric Co. B	38	39	38	39	539,400
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.86	4,445,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3.05	3	3.05	3,329,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	130,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	130,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	7,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.68	0.7	0.68	0.68	390,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.25	243,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23	23.5	23	23.5	28,900
RFM Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	864,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	47.5	46.5	47.5	212,600
San Miguel Corp. B	62	63.5	62	63.5	285,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	258,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	759,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	145,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	62,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.23	2,840,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.22	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.76	0.81	0.76	0.79	33,420,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.41	0.41	810,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.31	2,820,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	180,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	30	30.5	30	30	214,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.175	0.175	1,710,000
Ionics Inc.	8.3	8.6	8.3	8.4	29,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.83	0.86	0.83	0.84	890,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	4,740,000
Music Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	190,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	360,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	110,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	250,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	550,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	520,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	7,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.25	121,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.45	830,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	60,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	22,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.49	0.51	0.48	0.48	240,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	29.5	31	29.5	31	89,700
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.7	1.72	1.68	1.68	108,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	38,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	24,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.4	1,345,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	500,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	3,070,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.47	0.49	0.46	0.49	14,410,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	3,190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.98	2.02	1.94	2	7,998,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	450,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	150,000
SM Development Corp.	0.91	0.99	0.91	0.96	980,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.6	1,841,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	20,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2	2.1	2	2.1	87,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.8	1.84	1.8	1.8	18,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.041	0.043	0.041	0.043	83,100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	1,150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.235	5,520,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	11,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.28	5,880,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	3,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	4,400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	801,750	122,548,800.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	250,726,470	194,390,700.00
PRO	33,934,000	46,510,980.00
Mining	129,805,000	7,945,470.00
OIL	27,500,000	235,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	442,767,220	371,630,950.00

	AVERAGES
Banks & Fin Svc	555.65 UP 2.71
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,863.26 UP 35.52
PRO	588.82 UP 8.30
Mining	1,457.56 UP 79.61
OIL	1.90 UP 0.04
All Shares Index	737.66 UP 8.77
Composite	1,365.96 UP 21.61

NO. OF ADVANCES: 62; NO. OF DECLINES: 15; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 27; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 104; NO. OF TRADES: 2,871

CURRENCIES

Feb. 11, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.144951	1.000000	51.2180
Japan	Yen	0.008506	0.007429	0.3805
United Kingdom	Pound	1.620907	1.415700	72.5093
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146977	0.128370	6.5749
Switzerland	Franc	0.677686	0.591891	30.3155
Canada	Dollar	0.716714	0.625978	32.0613
Singapore	Dollar	0.624326	0.545286	27.9285
Australia	Dollar	0.584755	0.510725	26.1583
Bahrain	Dinar	3.037166	2.652661	135.8640
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.305321	0.266667	13.6582
Brunei	Dollar	0.623986	0.544989	27.9132
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000098	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026057	0.022758	1.1656
UAE	Dirham	0.311806	0.272331	13.9482
Korea	Won	0.000874	0.000763	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.873400	44.7338
Brazil	Real	0.465247	0.406504	20.8203
Denmark	Kroner	0.134624	0.117581	6.0223
India	Rupee	0.023559	0.020576	1.0539
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.301382	0.263227	13.4820
Mexico	New Peso	0.126333	0.110339	5.6513
New Zealand	Dollar	0.478259	0.417711	21.3943
Norway	Kroner	0.127564	0.111414	5.7064
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019083	0.016667	0.8537
South Africa	Rand	0.100117	0.087442	4.4786
Sweden	Kroner	0.108136	0.094446	4.8373
Syria	Pound	0.022319	0.019493	0.9984
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032732	0.028588	1.4642
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001441	0.001259	0.0645

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF FEBRUARY 11, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"		1,500,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	1,550,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	125,000	115,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	180,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	350,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	210,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	340,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	210,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	280,000	250,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000	
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	12,500,000	11,000,000
20. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,600,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	600,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	140,000	
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	330,000
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	300,000	250,000
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	370,000	
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	225,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	190,000
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	230,000
32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,700,000	1,500,000
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	850,000	750,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	750,000	650,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	240,000	220,000
38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		6,500,000

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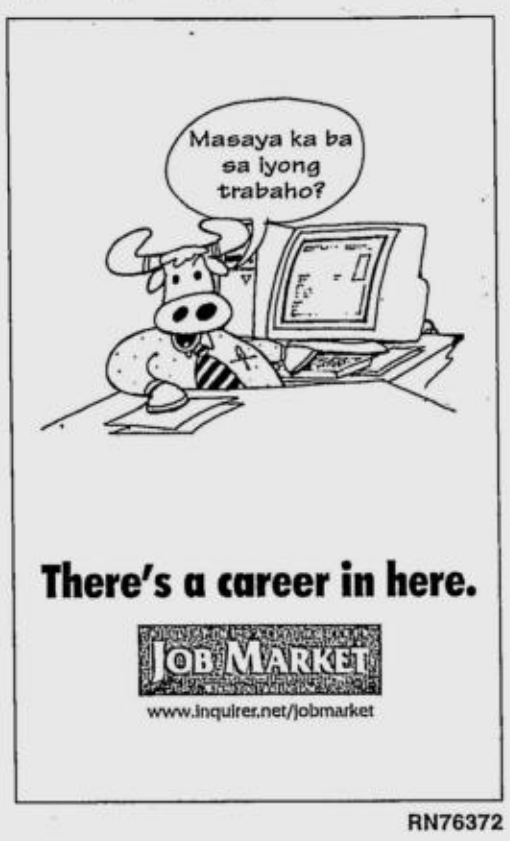

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COUNTRY SHARES
As of February 12, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.45M/1.5M	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	720,000	750,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	265,000	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	700,000
CAPITOL HILLS	120,000	125,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	620,000**	350,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000*	100,000/150,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	200,000	230,000/325,000*/350,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Please call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	295,000/325,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,550,000	2,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	630,000	670,000
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	120,000/125,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	C2-250,000	180,000/350,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C**/B*	600,000**	400,000/625,000**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000/400,000**	230,000/425,000**
PUERTO AZUL A	-	125,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	220,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	195,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	550,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	110,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	150,000/250,000*/350,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	-	1,650,000
SUBIC BAY IND./CORP.*	-	300,000/450,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLAND CC/GOLF*	370,000/800*	375,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	730,000	-
VALLEY VERDE IND.	165,000	175,000
VALLEY GOLF	225,000	230,000

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PDI 021202

DTI remains cautious on 2002 export outlook

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry remains cautious on its outlook on the Philippine economy, specifically exports, this year as it continues to doubt whether the US economy is already on the road to recovery.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said that despite better-than-expected data from the United States in the fourth quarter last year, "the signals remain mixed which is why we continue to take a cautious look on our economy."

Roxas' view was in sharp contrast to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho's forecast that the Philippine economy would rebound this year as the United States had started to recover much faster than Philippine economic leaders had thought.

The DTI earlier projected exports to remain flat this year because it doubted whether the country's biggest overseas markets—the United States and Japan—would indeed recover by the second half this year.

ROXAS

Since the Philippines is an export economy, the country's economic growth is largely dependent on demand from the United States and Japan, which went into a recession last year. These two developed countries account for 27 percent and 13 percent, respectively, of the country's total exports.

Roxas said that unless these big markets recover their footing and rebound, the country has to content itself with flat growth for exports.

Roxas said the uncertainty over the US economy's prospects "underscores our need to continue our reform effort, passing the needed legislation, lowering the cost of doing business, and making ourselves competitive," Roxas said. "If the US economy recovers, good for us. If it doesn't happen, good for us because we have prepared for such eventuality."

Exports fell 15.6 percent to $32.15 billion last year due to a slump in electronic sectors as the US and Japan economies fell into a swoon.

The private sector, on the other hand, believes the crisis which hit hard the country's export industry last year has bottomed out.

Philippine Exporters Confederation (Philexport) and concurrent Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. said: "At its worst, export performance will be flat this year. If the recovery in the United States hold, it will start to bounce back by the second quarter, instead of the second half of this year. If it just grows a bit, (the Philippines') gross domestic product (GDP) growth can easily hit 4.5 percent."

He said he expected that the services sector would continue to grow above 4 percent while agriculture, with a more aggressive program to push farm modernization by government, would grow more than 3 percent.

"If there is no major international accident, exports and manufacturing can rebound by one or 2 percent. This will surely push economic growth higher," he predicted.

The export leader said that last year, the 15.6-percent decline in exports had dragged down overall economic growth for the first time in 10 years. In terms of hard cash, the country's earnings from goods sold abroad dived by close to $6 billion from $38 billion in 2001 to $32.15 last year.

This happened as a result of a global economic slowdown made worse by terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon building in Washington in September last year.

Gov't readies Asian roadshow on Napocor sale

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said last week the government was set to embark on another international roadshow for the privatization of National Power Corp.

"We hope to do a second roadshow by end-February," Perez said. "This is to continue the positive feedback from the previous roadshow (last month)."

He said Napocor's privatization advisers—Credit Suisse First Boston and NM Rothschild—have yet to draw up the details and the itinerary.

However, Perez had previously said the government planned to do a campaign around Asia after one in Europe and the United States.

The energy chief noted that the administration believed international investors and multilateral lenders were monitoring Napocor's privatization as a measure of the government's will to realize economic reforms.

"That is why we have set an ambitious target of privatizing National Transmission Corp. by June this year," Perez said.

He said Transco was expected to fetch $2 billion, give or take half a billion.

"This is based on a comparative analysis of valuations of other transmission systems in Asia and the rest of the world," Perez added.

Also, the secretary said a number of local firms have signified interest in taking a 60-percent stake in a privatized Transco.

"These are investment firms involved in the insurance business," Perez said.

He noted that participation of local firms in Tranco's privatization was necessary as there was a constitutional prohibition against foreigners owning more than 40 percent of a public utility.

"However, they could only be passive partners of a foreign investor as no local firm is qualified to be the operator of Transco," he said.

He noted that the Electric Power Industry Reform Act requires the new operator of Transco to have a world-class track record.

Perez said that in a recent international pre-marketing roadshow, at least two firms signified interest to bid for Transco.

These are National Grid of the United Kingdom and Red Electrica of Spain.

MRT . . .

From page B1

Credit Agency, plus a group of local banks.

The Neda-ICC is expected to give its go-ahead for the railway extension project within the month, when everything goes well at the technical board meeting on Feb. 18, according to Edsa MRT-3 general manager Mario Miranda.

After the technical board meeting, the whole Neda-ICC board would meet and a decision would then be handed down, Daza explained.

"We're serious and committed to get Phase 2," he said.

He added that MRTC also submitted proposals to the DOTC for the Edsa MRT-3 airport extension project which would extend the existing Edsa MRT-3 from Edsa to Roxas Blvd. to the airport.

He said the consortium hoped to start constructing the 5.1-kilometer Edsa MRT-3 Phase 2 project as soon as possible as it would like to proceed with discussions for the airport extension project.

"We'd like to proceed with the airport extension, but it's up to government," he added.

Another proposal, for the Makati Loop (Edsa to Ayala to Buendia), was also submitted at about the same time as the airport extension project.

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REALESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Property rights buyers urged to take extra precautions

By Tessa R. Salazar

YOU BOUGHT the land, and you realize later that you still don't own it. That is one real estate nightmare you'd never want to live in. The government's advice is, walk the extra mile in your efforts to secure the purchase of a property. That means knowing thoroughly the status of the property you are planning to buy, and seeing for yourself the updated statement of the loan balance of the property and the appraised value of the property.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERTRODRIQUEZ

These are what you, as the buyer of rights, should investigate before plunging into a commitment with the occupant who's selling his or her rights of the property but doesn't hold an ownership title yet.

A buyer of rights is somebody who agrees to buy the rights of the original occupant, enters into a contract to sell with the occupant, pays him or her and then assumes the loan balance of the occupant in a lending institution.

Abed Origines of the Pag-Ibig Fund said the updated statement of a loan balance of the property a buyer eyes is not hard to find, whether it is in a bank or in a government lending institution.

He added the property cost could be known by asking banks and financial institutions in the same area where the property is located. Consulting a trusted appraiser could also be a good idea, he said.

There are 150,000 delinquent borrowers nationwide, and an unaccountable number of buyers of rights who have assumed the right to ownership of some of these delinquent owners. The problem comes out in the open only when it's usually too late for the buyer: many years have passed and the interest and penalty have accumulated over time. And by that time, the delinquent and dishonest sellers have gone scot-free, and the poor buyers are left holding the proverbial "smoking gun."

Easy payments, discounts await RTO 'converts'

ARE YOU ready to own the house you rent?

The Ready-To-Own program makes it all happen. Open to Pag-Ibig member and nonmembers, the RTO program of the government aims to provide affordable housing for those whose current income cannot sustain the monthly amortization on a Pag-Ibig housing loan.

The program intends to ensure home ownership by the time they become eligible for such a loan. For non-Pag-Ibig members who finally decide to convert the property to ownership, they have to become a member to avail of the organization's housing loan program.

If you are not a homeowner yet, have a legal capacity to enter into a contract, have not previously availed of the RTO program and you have no outstanding housing loan from any financial public or private institution, then you can go RTO.

Trial period

The monthly rental, which would be based on the prevailing rate in the area, but shall not be lower than P1000, may be rented for a maximum of five years, which would serve as your trial period.

You should decide in those five years whether you would want the property converted to your ownership or not.

The sooner you decide, the better.

Deductions

Here's why: Should you decided to sign a form converting the rented property to your ownership on your first year, your entire rental payment would be deducted from the purchased value of the property.

If you decide to own the property on your second year, 70 percent of the entire rental payments would be deducted from the purchased value of the property. If you decide on the third year, 45 percent of your entire rentals will be deducted.

If you decide on the fifth year, only 10 percent of your entire rental payments will be deducted. Aside from your accumulated rental payments that would be deducted from the entire purchase value of the property, there are corresponding discounts on the purchased price.

Discount on loan values for those who decide on the first and second year is 5 percent of the purchased value. While those who decide to convert their property on their third to fifth year, a discount on loan value of 3 percent of the purchased price will be granted.

Option

The Pag-Ibig Fund shall require the lessee to exercise his or her option to purchase not later than the end of the term of the lease. Failure to exercise the option within the given period shall be grounds for the lessee's eviction from the property.

The lessee may pay the property in cash or by availing of the Pag-Ibig housing loan.

If you find yourself with more questions, or you want to look at how the housing units look like, a briefing for the Rent To Own program is held every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at the Pag-Ibig premises in the Atrium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Tessa R. Salazar

₱2.1-B road perks up Cebu economy

THE ONGOING construction of the P2.1-billion Cebu South Coastal Road that will facilitate easy access from the southern portion of Cebu province to the bustling business hub of Cebu City is on track.

Public Works Assistant Secretary Salvador Pleyto said he had instructed public works officials in Region 7 to keep up the momentum and ensure quality in the construction methods and deliver tangible results.

Barely a week as overall supervisor of construction operations for foreign-assisted and locally funded projects in Region 7, Pleyto rallied all district engineers and project managers to closely monitor and supervise all ongoing projects to avoid delays.

In his first official visit to the region. Pleyto conducted an ocular inspection of the project's progress. He was accompanied by regional director Juanito Abergas, Cebu City district engineer Nicomedes Leonor Jr. and regional project management office chief Gloria Dindi.

The Talisay section now on its preconstruction stage will cover 4.5-kilometer, six-lane roadway. This includes the construction of drainage structures and prestressed concrete bridge crossing Managa River.

Section 2 of the project involving the construction of a causeway protected with revetments at the open sea area is now 89 percent completed. This has a four-km, six-lane roadway in asphalt concrete pavement.

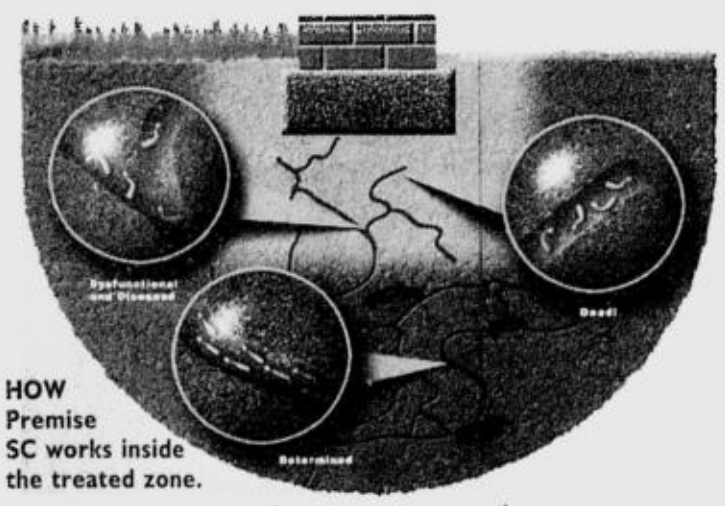
Two bridges will be constructed crossing Channels 1 and 2 in precast prestressed concrete girders.

The coastal road will have a 1.6-km viaduct, four-lane elevated highway connecting the busy Ludo jetty offshore crossing in the north and the Veco Compound and Carbon Market.

It will have a 1.3-km, four-lane subway section from the viaduct to the proposed Cebu Waterfront Development Project traversing beneath the Plaza Independencia and coming out at MacArthur Boulevard and R. Palma Street.

To be constructed are a Carbon Market Ramp at the Waterfront area and the Ludo's Ramp at the South Reclamation Area and two traffic lane ramps.

Pleyto expressed satisfaction that apart from easing up the growing traffic problem of Metro Cebu, the coastal road project is providing employment opportunities to people in the area.



HOW Premise SC works inside the treated zone.

Bayer launches new product against termites

By Marlet Salazar

HOMEOWNERS, your worst nightmare is over!

What took you years and hard work to build, will only take days for termites (*anay*) to destroy. Who would want that?

Addressing this never-ending problem on termite control, Bayer has come up with a termiticide that goes through the root of the problem. With their new product Premise SC, developed by Australian pest biologist Graeme Smith, your homes are in safe hands now.

Launched at the Dusit Hotel Nikko recently, Premise SC went through extensive research that stretched to a decade. It is being sold, however, in the international market for four years now.

Termites are hardworking pests and feed 24 hours a day on wood and other materials made of cellulose like paper and fabrics. Because the Philippines is a tropical region, as well as the other parts of Southeast Asia, termites thrive most in these areas. Their populations are quite staggering. Up to 10-million termites drift into as deep as 10 feet underground.

"Instead of repelling (the termites), Premise is actually killing them, and continues killing them as long as it is in the soil," said Smith, who is also Bayer's regional technical manager for Asia and Australia. This termiticide works in a way that after the application, it will take a while for the termites to become dysfunctional, (come out) in a treated zone where they are eventually poisoned or killed. But it takes a pro to wipe out these pests in the face of your world, so Bayer Philippines introduces Premise SC in partnership with 36 management professionals or pest control operators (PCOs). Smith said that in demolishing the termite colony it takes "40 percent product and 60 percent application technique."

What separates Premise from other existing termiticides in the country today is the fact that it is water-soluble, odorless, environment-friendly and safe for humans, animals and even plants.

Premise SC has two modes of action against these creatures that literally eat your house. First, its active ingredient, imidacloprid, intoxicates termites on contact, thus stopping feeding instantly. Termites exposed to high concentrations are killed on the spot in minutes. Those that get sub-lethal doses, like the ones that are at the edges of the treated zone, stay there and get confused, unable to eat. The second mode of action is Premise SC working with nature. The confused, dysfunctional termites become infected with diseases and fungi in the soil that cause them to die.

Discovered in Japan and initially named in Japanese, Premise SC is named as such because "it's trying to protect the premises from these termites," Smith explains.

To learn more about Premise SC and Bayer Philippines' PCOs partners, call 450-3699 or 450-3575.

Osmeña supports ban asbestos bill

SEN. John Osmeña recently said he will support the move to pass legislation banning asbestos and asbestos-containing materials in all its forms.

Osmeña, who chairs the finance committee, said he will help "expedite the passing of such a bill since the asbestos issue has been around for many years and nothing seems to have been done about it."

He also suggested the victims of asbestos may file a class suit against the former Subic Naval Bay Base, if their illnesses are found to be directly caused by their long years of exposure to asbestos.

Osmeña added that "in the United States, there are highly stringent asbestos regulations I wouldn't be surprised if the Philippines has become a dumping ground."

He declared his support in a phone-in interview in the program "ANC News First" over Channel 21. The talk show, hosted by Dan Andrew Cura, discussed the ill-effects of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials to thousands of former workers of the Subic Naval Base contracted asbestosis and other forms of lung ailments after many years of exposure to the material.

The same talk show featured former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto R. Yasay Jr., who is also adviser to the Subic Asbestos Victims Association (Sava). Yasay stressed that what is required is a coordinated effort among the government's leading departments like the trade and industry, health, environment and natural resources to issue a policy banning asbestos in all its forms.

Said Yasay: "Government must draw the line. If medical findings, as in the case of the Subic victims, have established that the illnesses were caused by their exposure to asbestos, then government should take a firm stand and call for the total ban of asbestos."

Lawyer Benjamin Kudo, an environment specialist from Hawaii, who was in the same TV forum, said that in the United States, asbestos-containing materials in buildings and other facilities are being replaced. This move, Kudo said, "was indeed very costly but what is the cost of human life compared to the cost of replacing the materials? Schools, hospitals, offices, buildings, all have been required by law to remove asbestos-containing materials and replace them with asbestos-free ones."

Hotel chain gears up for business upswing

ANTICIPATING business tourism to start bouncing back in this year's first and second quarter, the City Garden Hotel chain is briskly upgrading its facilities to meet the future requirements of foreign and local guests.

This optimism stemmed from the country's economic performance last year when it posted a 3.3-percent growth in gross domestic product, the highest in Southeast Asia.

"It also reflected the gradually rising confidence in the construction and tourism sectors, which were among the worst hit by the economic squeeze since 1997," said the hotel chain in a press statement.

Upgrading

Much of the hotel chain's upgrading can be seen in its Manila branch, which has been rebranded into City Garden Suites to reflect the new features of this landmark on A. Mabini Street in between Padre Faura and A. Flores Streets.

Construction work on this first-class 92-room hotel has been ongoing for over a year now, spawning five-star amenities that include spacious deluxe rooms or business suites, especially penthouse and junior suites, with fully furnished kitchen and dining facilities appropriate for long-staying guests.

There are equally large family rooms, each with videoke lounge that also serves as a receiving or anteroom.

Convenient, efficient

Even the standard rooms look bigger with their new design and luxurious appointments that befit the lifestyle of today's business transients.

"All in all, it's a convenient and efficient businessman's hotel," says general manager Sal Magugat, citing the City Garden Suite's spic and span, flora-scented, and all-new atmosphere.

Our well-lighted lobby also features a new design concept that makes guests feel as secure and comfortable as they are in their own turf," Magugat adds.

The flooring is so well-polished that it reflects the ball and pinlights that are masterfully arrayed around the ceiling to create a majestic effect.

Classic red wood wall paneling and elegant marble countertops make up the reception and a nearby bar, with expensive furniture and tropical indoor landscape to complete this gorgeous setting.

Visible

The yearlong upgrading work is visible in every part of the hotel, including its function rooms that have been the venue of many important occasions.

Even the exteriors now sport a yellow gold color, with the façade's new architectural design exuding quite a totally distinctive character.

But topping it all is the business center, which is fully equipped to meet all the needs of every businessman.

"Indeed, we have upgraded practically everything in this hotel, except our rates, which have remained among the lowest in the industry," Magugat adds.

WORK STARTS ON XAVIER HILLS

The first stages of development are under way for The Xavier Hills, a Mediterranean-inspired residential community of housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. in Quezon City. Excavation and foundation works are currently proceeding at the basement level for buildings 1 to 4. Each building houses two-level condominium units with two and three bedrooms. The project is targeted for completion and turnover by the second quarter of 2005.

Cuevasville opens cinemas

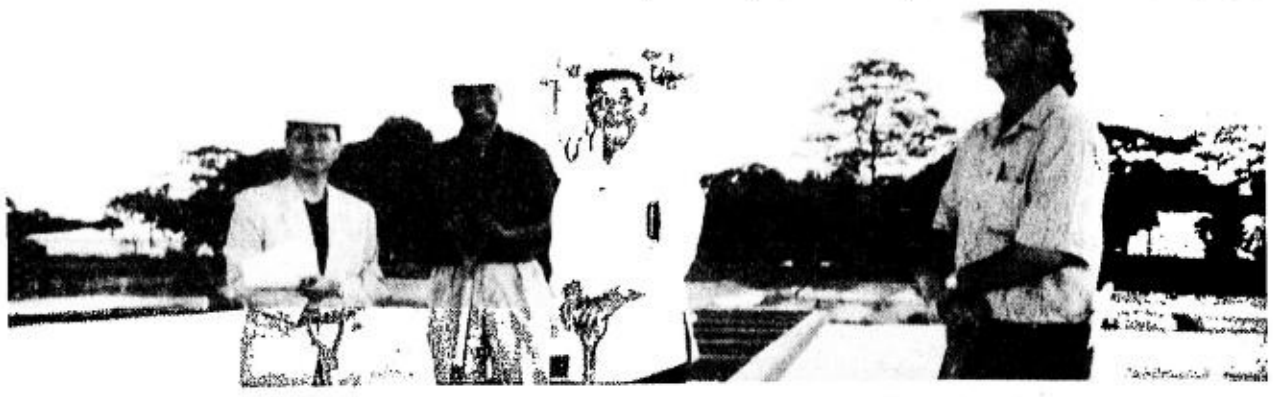
CUEVASVILLE Plaza (FRC Mall) will open its state-of-the-art-cinemas tomorrow with the showing of "Collateral Damage" starring Arnold Scharzenegger.

Cuevasville Realty and Development Corp. announces that the movie will be shown to the public starting at 1 p.m., but a special screening for special guest starts at about 7 p.m. The special screening will be attended by show-biz personalities and Cavite government officials.

The mall quietly opened in December with a "*tiangge ng bayan*" where it offered an array of goods such as toys, apparel, electronic products, appliances and various gift items at "rock-bottom prices." Several of the mall's big-ticket stalls are busy putting the finishing touches on their respective stores in time for the mall's grand opening first week of March.

Cuevasville Plaza is a four-story building that sits on a 32,000-square-meter lot. It boasts of first-class amenities. It is brownout-free, assuring shoppers of nonstop air-conditioning convenience, state-of-the-art cinemas, elevators and escalators.

The mall is located on the busiest section of the Zapote stretch which hosts a slew of various commercial establishments such banks, public market, convenience stores, medical center, food, drug and other shops. The area has average consumer traffic of about 1,500 per hour on off peak and roughly 2,500 per hour on peak hours.



Y-I LEISURE (Clark) officials and Yats International Group's director Denny Wang, far left, during the topping off ceremony of the Fun Pool of Clearwater Country Club Resort

Development of P400-M resort in full swing

NO doubt about it. Investor confidence in the country is back with new foreign investments like the P400-million Clearwater Country Club Resort of the Hong Kong-based Yats International Limited.

Targeted for a soft opening in April, the development of the resort, which is located in the main tourism area of the Clark Special Economic Zone, is currently in full swing.

The main attraction of Clearwater, which was patterned after a resort in the East Coast of the United States, will be a three-hectare man-made lake that will be divided into five individual swim spots. These are the Family Cove, a 3,000-square-meter swim area at the doorstep of the living area; the 1,200 square-meter Discovery Cove, a swim area with a 50-m lakeshore frontage of golden sand; the 1,000 sq.-m Fun Poll; the Friendship Pool; and the 8,500-sq.-m Wild Lagoon play for the more adventurous.

The new resort also features the Crazy River, a 180-m-long water ride with a number of exhilarating drops along the way; the Boathouse, the main clubhouse; and the Watchtower Bar and Grill, expected to be the resort's favorite evening hangout.

Clearwater's other attractions: an amphitheater with the lagoon as backdrop; a spa by the lake; bowling lanes, badminton and tennis courts and a gym, among other sports facilities; banquet and convention facilities; a picnic grove; a venue for weddings and outdoor events; and fully air-conditioned lodges and luxury tents.

A brochure dubs Clearwater as the "recreation and vacation destination in Clark."

"It's just like being in a five-star hotel," said the same brochure. "If the Americans find out about this place, they may want to take it back."

Earlier, Yats International Limited put up the Yats International Wine Club inside the Mimosa, also at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Yats director Denny Wang said they decided to invest in the leisure-tourism business here "because when you think of a financial or industrial center what comes to mind are other countries; the Philippines' main attraction is its people, its treasure."

Aside from the Yats group of companies, Y-ILeisure (Clark) Inc. is listed as Clearwater's other developer while the US firm Greenberg Farrow Architecture Engineering Development and Palafox Associates are the resort's master planners. *Jerry Esplanada*

MC Home Depot breaks ground at Global City

MC HOME Depot recently broke ground at the Bonifacio Global City. The one-stop warehouse plaza for building materials and furnishings will be located in a 29,700-square-meter lot adjacent to the S&R Price Club. Operations is expected to commence on the last quarter of 2001.

This construction milestone follows after MC Home Depot signed a long-term lease agreement with Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., developer of the Bonifacio Global City.

"Bonifacio Global City is the ideal place for our company's third outlet considering the increased people and motor traffic including the relocation activities of major retail outlets in the area," said Jose Chung, president of MC Home Depot. "Moreover, we are excited to be in an area that is just at the start of its growth phase. As indicated by what S&R Price Club has experienced in the short time since their opening, we look forward to serving Metro Manila's most promising growth market."

We are pleased to welcome MC Home Depot as the latest in a growing number of retail establishments in the Bonifacio Global City, remarked Vicente C. Tinsay III, senior vice president for Commercial Operations Group of the FBDC. "Both the existing retail and corporate lease agreements signed in 2001 in the Bonifacio Global City, as well as the increasing number of transactions for 2002, are a clear demonstration of the strong value potential of the Global City as a retail investment opportunity."

Lecture on realty installment sales

A COMPLETE course on real estate installment sales will be conducted at the 2nd floor, Joni's Bakeshop, Pasay Road corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, on Feb. 16, from 1:30 to 6 p.m.

Urban Institute of Real estate announced that the four-and-a-half-hour lecture would cover various aspects of installment sales—financial and taxation.

For inquiries, call up Urban Institute at 681-0928 and 681-0953 or at e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

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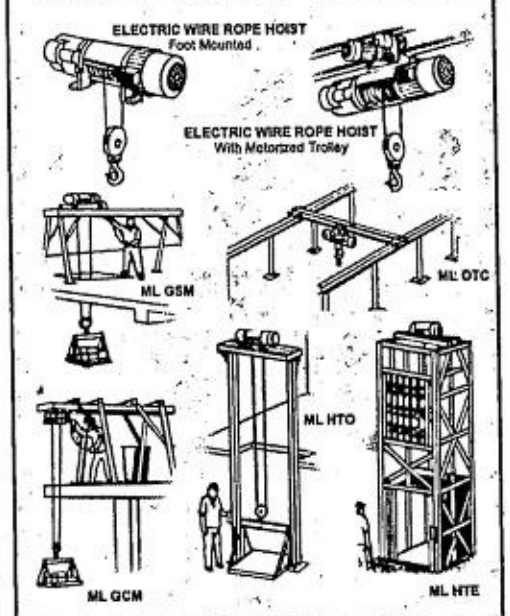

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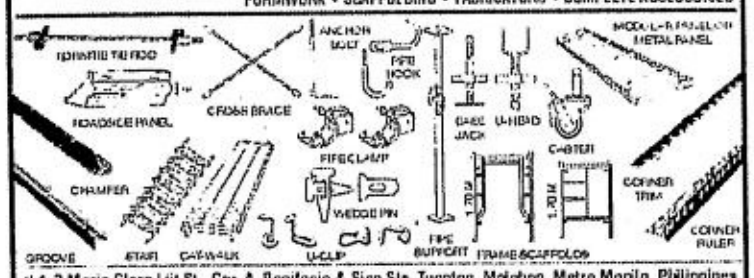

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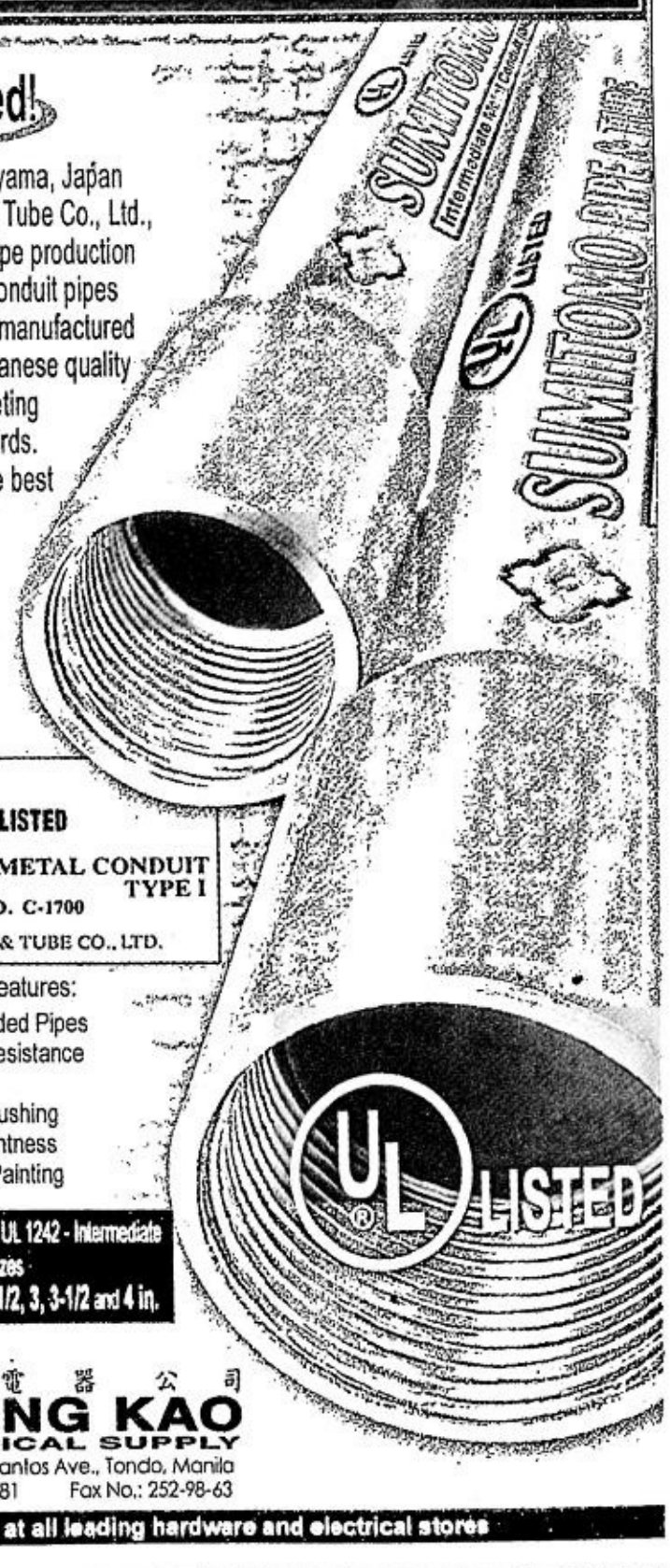

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ATR to buy All Asia life insurance unit

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTMENT house ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners is set to take over the life insurance unit of cash-strapped All Asia Capital and Trust Corp.

The deal is in line with All Asia Capital's financial rehabilitation program.

ATR-Kim Eng Capital president Manuel Tordesillas yesterday said the investment house had signed an agreement to acquire up to 90 percent of All Asia Life Assurance Corp. It will be the group's second major acquisition in the insurance business.

The ATR-Kim Eng group ventured into the local insurance business last year when it bought the stake held by GE Capital in GE Life, which was later renamed ATR Professional Life Assurance Corp.

With the acquisition of All Asia Life, Tordesillas said the gross premium income of Professional Life would double to about P400 million yearly and bring the company closer to its goal of becoming one of the country's top 10 insurers.

All Asia posted about P220 million in gross premium income last year while Professional Life recorded about P187 million.

Tordesillas said there were other groups that offered to buy All Asia Life's portfolio of policyholders but they were rejected since the sale to these groups would just lead to the liquidation of the beleaguered investment house, which suffered liquidity problems due to heavy withdrawals.

Under the agreement with ATR, All Asia Capital will still retain a 10-percent stake in All Asia Life, through its subsidiary, All Asia Insurance Holdings, Tordesillas said.

Another group that earlier proposed to acquire All Asia Life was the Yuchengco group, which controls leading non-life and non-life insurance firms Malayan Insurance Co. Inc. and Great Pacific Life Corp.

The creditors of All Asia Capital are expected to welcome the entry of the ATR group as All Asia Capital's rehabilitation hinges on the continued operation of the life insurer, he said. .

As part of the agreement, the ATR group will assume the management control of the life insurer, even while it is awaiting the approval of All Asia Capital's shareholders and creditors within the next 90 days.

Tordesillas said the two groups had formed a transition management team to oversee the orderly transfer of management to the ATR group.

But while the board of All Asia Capital and its court-appointed receiver had already approved the acquisition, the deal still needs the go-signal from the Insurance Commission and the International Finance Corp., a shareholder of All Asia.

"The parties have agreed to take steps so that the margin of solvency and investment reserve ratios of All Asia Life will be restored for the benefit of its policyholders, who have continued to pay premiums to the company," Tordesillas said.

He said employees and agents of All Asia Life would also be protected since Professional Life would absorb the business through the acquisition.

The Securities and Exchange Commission issued a cease-and-desist order against All Asia Capital in 2000 after it discovered that the investment house violated some of the country's securities laws. Its license to operate as an investment house lapsed in end-July last year and has yet to be renewed.

Aside from the IFC, the investment arm of the World Bank, the other shareholders of All Asia are Hong Kong-based fund Lombard, Land Bank of the Philippines, the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Retirement Separation and Benefits System (AFP-RSBS) as well as the Tanco and Garcia families.

Norkis puts up ₱400-M facility

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Norkis Group of companies is planning to move all aspects of its operations to another facility here to enable the group to expand its production capacity.

The Norkis Group is presently housed at a 10-hectare property in Mandaue City. It intends to transfer to the northern municipality of Compostela in the next two years.

"We have outgrown the place. We are running out of space for the production facilities," Norkis Group of companies chair Norberto B. Quisumbing Jr. said.

The company will transfer its entire operations to the 150-hectare property in northern Cebu town of Compostela, 25.3 kilometers from Cebu City.

Quisumbing estimated that the group's initial investment in the facility would reach P400 million.

Norkis has to produce more than its average production in its Mandaue facility since it has to prepare for a gap of two to three months before the production in the new facility can run without any hitch, he explained.

Quisumbing said another reason for the transfer was the ability of the local government to provide an environment conducive to doing business.

"We want to be given the support. Local government should provide the right kind of environment (for business)," he said.

The lord of daring

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ONE fine day, Commissioner Ruben Carranza of the PCGG probably wakes up with another of his bright daring ideas. He thinks it's about time we should, again, become the laughing stock of the world financial markets.

Why don't we, according to Carranza, as quoted by newspapers, fiddle with the deal between Japan's Kirin Brewery and our very own San Miguel. Right away, boss!

Kirin is investing some $540 million in San Miguel. Kirin is buying treasury stocks of San Miguel at a premium. Kirin agrees to pay 25 percent more than the market price of the shares. This, thanks to Carranza's daring, we now know, is stupid.

For Carranza wants San Miguel to set the price higher than what San Miguel and Kirin had agreed on earlier. He notes that the market price has gone up since then.

To which Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas reacts thus: If we follow Carranza's idea, we will never ever close any deal in the stock market. How come I get this sense from Roxas that we should ignore this PCGG lord of daring ideas?

* * *

COME on, tell the truth, where in heaven's name do they manufacture brains like his? I mean, Carranza's not Roxas'! In business, they are certain about Roxas' sanity. They are starting to entertain doubts about Carranza's.

When San Miguel and Kirin signed the deal, the San Miguel B shares, which were the ones eligible for foreign ownership, were doing at less than P50 per. It's clear we have to change that same deal, because today, they are fetching more than P60 per.

But what would happen if, by a weird twist of fate, the price went down? I wonder if Carranza would also call for a cut in the buying price of Kirin. Knowing his mental caliber so far, I would not be surprised if he would.

Sure, it's done every day in the stock market. Every day the price of stocks change. It's the nature of the market. Thus, people buy shares at P1 each, and if the price goes up to P2 the next day, they go back to the seller and pay P1 more.

That same Kirin investment is one of the reasons why the price of San Miguel shares went up. Based on Carranza's daring idea coming from his buttocks, Kirin now must pay more, precisely because the market loves its investment. Is that bright or what?

* * *

GLORIAETTA is not really known for lifting a finger to help members of her Cabinet who are enjoying a lot of attention from the powerful Commission on Appointments.

But then she surprises everybody when she vouches for her finance secretary, the former banker Jose Isidro Camacho, and she does so openly. I don't think anybody can blame her.

Camacho, aka the Whiz, is catching all sorts of charges from two senators, basically. The most serious of them is his most detestable act of attending a meeting. Another serious offense of his is this most despicable crime of writing a letter.

Attending a meeting and writing a letter are such dastardly acts that, for an ordinary person, they sometimes carry a punishment of having no tequila for breakfast.

* * *

ANYWAY, the Whiz is no ordinary person. In fact, Gloriaetta goes out of her way to defend him and him alone. I mean, she does not give the same importance to the likes of Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, aka Bebot.

Why is Gloriaetta willing to gamble with some of her political chips for the Whiz? Well, he is the finance secretary, as I said, and as such he is recognized here and abroad as the captain ball of Gloriaetta's economic team.

It so happens that, now, finally, things are looking up in this country. Business groups are unanimous in saying that confidence is making a complete about face. Yes, it's a 180-degree turn.

Perhaps Gloriaetta is worried about the so-called momentum. Every sports lover knows the importance of momentum, not only in every aspect of life, but more importantly in every basketball game. It is also a factor in business, by the way.

If the economic team captain gets mauled in the court of public opinion, through the help of certain senators, where do you think we will have to pick up our economy again—in the *kangkungan*?

* * *

LET'S be specific. What is being thrown against the Whiz? They are nothing but underhanded political attacks. Sneaky, true, but still below the belt!

Before foreign investors, nevertheless, those attacks in effect become out-and-out frontal attack against the integrity of this country's debt instruments. Being insinuated in the attacks is that the bidding for zero coupon bonds was . . . well, "rigged."

I have only one question: How do you rig a bidding in which 15 huge banks took part, five of them foreign? Also, how do you rig a bidding which more than P137 billion in bids were submitted for P10 billion worth of bonds? Okay, I had two questions.

Anyway, under attack here is not just the Whiz but the entire financial system. So it seems everybody connives to cook a bidding. All of those banks are part of it. They just gave way to the winning bank, which was RCBC.

Sure, that's one characteristic of banks. They always pass up a chance to make a lot of money. They are not greedy. Hell, they don't even charge us any interest at all.

* * *

THE OTHER day, a former deputy executive secretary during Tita Cory's time, the soft-spoken, shy, unassuming Ben Evardone, while he was watching the PBA opening game with his family, got a threatening call from a certain Ernesto Francisco.

Does it ring a bell? Well, he is the loose cannon that's squirting water in all direction all over the place like it's a cobra on the designer drug called ecstacy.

Francisco is the lawyer who accused Speaker Jose de Venecia of bad things, not to mention many other congressmen, in connection with his impeachment case against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Anyway, based on reports, it seems Francisco threatened Evardone, telling him to be careful about the things he says in media regarding Francisco. And what did Evardone supposedly say? Well, in effect, Francisco is a loose cannon.

Of course Francisco had to deny everything over radio yesterday. He said he only told Evardone to be fair. Obviously, Francisco never heard of the Golden Rule. Do not do unto others what you do not want Francisco to do unto De Venecia. Something like that.

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ePLDT unit ties up with audit firm

By Abigail L. Ho

THE INTERNET trust services arm of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. subsidiary ePLDT has forged a strategic alliance with leading audit firm P&A Ernst & Young.

The partnership between mySecureSign Inc. (mSSI) and the audit firm was formed provide information technology audit servic well as support secure electronic commerce tr. sactions.

"This alliance combines the strength of mSSI's public certification services with P&A Ernst & Young's technology and security risk services to provide general information security services for users' technical, business and personal needs," mSSI president Ariel Roda said in a statement.

He added that online vendors and retailers as well as other entities that transmit confidential documents via e-mail applications, web browsers, shopping carts and other Internet-supported devices would greatly benefit from the alliance.

At present, online transactions remain minimal due to concerns that information sent online could be accessed by hackers and network infiltrators.

Sensitive data such as credit card numbers and other private demographic data could be intercepted and used by these hackers.

"The top consideration prior to implementing a truly secure online environment is a foolproof antidote against network fraud. This alliance hopes to create value by bridging the gap between client's needs and solutions to meet their expectations," P&A Ernst & Young partner and TSRS head Greg Navarro said.

To ensure the security of data transmitted through cyberspace, mSSI has proposed the use of "digital certificates" through leading United States-based Internet trust services provider Verisign Inc.

A digital certificate is a network data object that associates personal identity with a public or private encryption code to establish authentication and privacy between network users.

GOINGS-ON

iBank names new director

TECSON

THE INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank recently announced that veteran banker Wilfrido C. Tecson has joined its board of directors.

This brings the total number of directors at the iBank board to 10. The other board members are Gerardo Lanuza, chair; Ben Tiu, vice chair; Ramon Sy, president; Walter W. Brown, Enrique Razon, Dante Santos, Greg Yu, Wilson Sy and Ruben Tiu, members.

Tecson, who is currently a director of J.G. Summit, Robinson's Land and Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp., has been with the local banking industry for over half a century.

Waterfront No.1 in Davao

WATERFRONT Insular Hotel ended the month of January with the highest occupancy level among all the five-star hotels in Davao. Waterfront Insular had 65-percent occupancy rate for the said month, 10 percent higher than the average industry occupancy rate of 55 percent.

Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao cornered the bulk of the corporate conventions held in the city in January, including the Philippine Judicial Academy convention attended by 352 people, the Airlink Corp. convention and the Department of Trade and Industry's conference of commercial attachés.

Waterfront Philippines Inc. infused additional capital into the property for the upgrading of the hotel.

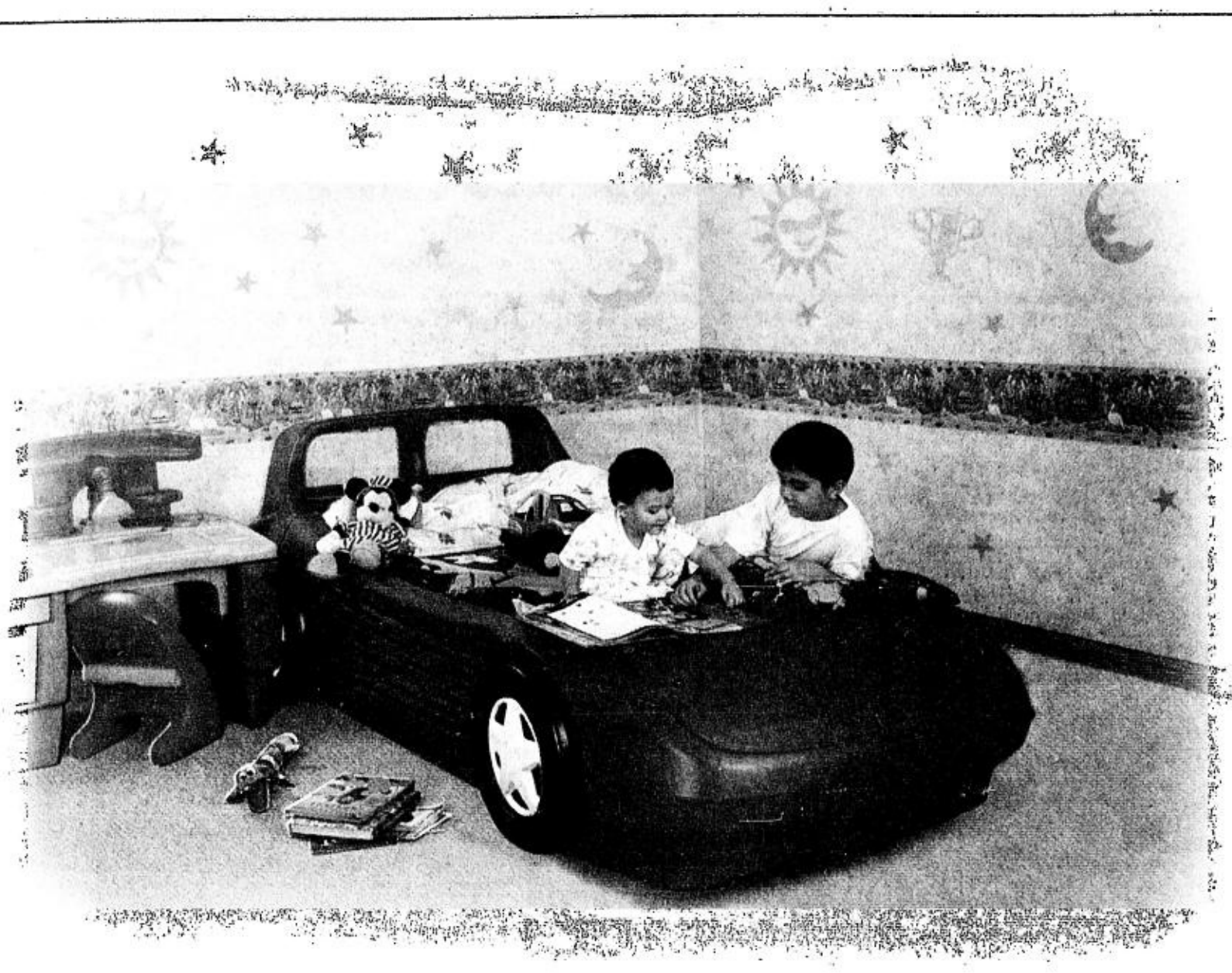
Mandaue's carrier

THE CITY government of Mandaue in Cebu has designated Cebu Pacific Airways as official carrier of its officials and employees.

In an administrative order, Mandaue Mayor Thadeo Ouano named Cebu Pacific as "the official carrier of city personnel who go on official travel to other destinations where (the airline) is operating."

"Cebu Pacific's low-fare-great-value services not only reduce the cost of air travel but also add comfort and convenience to the city's personnel," the Mandaue order states. The airline has built a solid reputation of providing on-time service and personalized care to its passengers.

Moreover, the agreement is considered financially advantageous for Mandaue, as it will cut costs that take up a huge slice of the city's budget.



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Cavite Light Industrial Park
Phase 1 Ready for Move-in
Phase II at PRE-SELLING
Maguyam Rd, Carmona Cavite
Tel. 635-8108 / 634-2956 Rey
Brokers are Welcome

OTHER AREAS

2 BUNG LA 1128M² P6M UGONG VAL CITY 9117940

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

LAS PINAS

BFR 1.6M 3BR2TB 8428853

MAKATI

C5 Nr The Fort 988T
10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or
10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD!
Call 0917-8169849 • 148176984

MANILA

Providence Tower Malate Studio Type 0917-5282174

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

MANDALUYONG

WACK' MANSION STUDIO 1.5M w/parking, Furn 6337601- 03

MARIKINA

Palmera 2BR P850T 7232391

PASIG

Renaissance 3K 3BR P8M Pioneer H 1BR P2.7M 723-2391

QUEZON CITY

1.8M
52.96m² near ABS-CBN
call 924-1402 / 412-5192

EASTWOOD 2BR W/PARKING Ready 4 Occ P4.5M 6337601-03

TandangSora 3br+1md 2tb P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

WHY BUY Office Com'l/Res'l If Not Ready Use Come & See nr Ateneo, UP, St. Lukes 0% interest flexible term 4210734 / 4213223 Text 09194076857 Agent/Brokers Welcome

SAN JUAN

Cortijos Greenhills 3BR 5M; Eisenhower 3BR 4M 7232391

Greenhills Several 1-3BR P3.5M-7.5M • 723-2391

Platinum 1 4BR 2CP P6.2M! Wak' Twin 3BR P8.2M Terms Eisenhower 3BR P4M 723-2391

Platinum 1 Annapolis 176 FA 17th Flr. 634-1212

OTHER AREAS

gudwill homes-1 nova. brand new townhouses tel 640-8448

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage 7120038 7120229/70

★HERITAGE PARK★ Buy Garden Lot Get a Lawn Lot for FREE 6714421

RESORT

PnsolHotSpring P7M 776-7507

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

NEW 4 Storey Apts. 2BR, Parking, Very nice near Mkti CBD, EDSA, Fort B. CALL 8821811•0916-3692836

PASAY

406 D. REYES nr ZAMORA 2BR P7.5T Call 831-5026

SAN JUAN

Spacious 2BR 2Stry Ideal Location 418 H. Lozada 631-6397

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS/GREENMEADOW P100-120T/mo 6337601 to 03

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

BNEW MKTI CONDO-11K
Oxford Suites, FF
Elegant w/Nice View
nr. Buendia & Mkti. Ave.
7594091•7522580•09178381928

PASIG

★AIC Ortigas★
2BR P25K All In • 671-4421

★ALEXANDRA★ 70K/mo.
Semifurnished • 671-4421

P Chateau 1BR 15T; 2-3BR F 30-40T; Residencia 40T Crisanta 2BR 25T • 723-2391

P6.5 T7240024 CP95547237

VVerde 3BR P30-40T 723-2391

QUEZON CITY

SEMIFURNISHED CONDO UNIT NEAR SM F'VIEW 4T/MO. TXT /CALL 0915-4862160 / 8159618 EXT. 309 W/BAR & TERRACE

SAN JUAN

Ghills 3BR P30-40T 723-2391

Grnhills Stud P11T 9299835

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

CB RICHARD ELLIS
B.New Res. Units For Lease
Essensa-Luxury 3BR
Fort Bonifacio, 290 sqm.
Classica Tower-123BR
Salcedo Village, Makati
43-157 sqm., 18-65K UF/FF
Burgundy Westbay-123BR
V.Cruz-Taft near Lasalle
14-37K, 42-90 sqm. commercial units
More properties available:
7522580, 7594091 8487388, 7500127 7592335, 09178381928
manila@cbrichardellis.com

ROOM & BOARD

Nr LaSalle P6T 8992148

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

CAR SANGLA • INSTANT! WHILE -U- WAIT
924-1254 • 925-9121 • 926-4169
We Also Buy Used Cars

BUSINESS RENTAL

10.7 sqm P10T/mo. T3633933 ALONG SGT. RIVERA ST QC

STORE WID ROLL UP DOOR 524 EDSA CALOOCAN 3610652

WHOLE 4TH FLR 396 SQM P75,000 /MO. UMC BLDG. 900 UN AVE NR LRT 521-1114/5245191

RESORT

Antipolo private resort 9265660

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

1995 BMW 316I Silver Call 0464300471-74 Php 550000

'92 BMW Euro 410K 4719099

★BMW '95 Black 53000Km★ P680T Gud Condtn 671-4421

FORD

'83 Model Ford Telstar 4DR Sedan P60T Neg. 640-8448

MERCEDES

ML2001 270CDI 8000Milage Silver 3.2M 637-8101 • 637-8080 Gret

NISSAN

Notice is hereby given that all Global Bank Retiro Branch Accts.of ADELINA G.MAYUGA was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc# 188, Page# 38 Book# CXLI, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Atemio C. Villas of Bohol - PDI 2/12,19,26,2002

TOYOTA

97 Lite Ace P330 6872354/66

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

5, 10, 40, 55,85KVA 3610215

ENGINE Welder 40T 3610215

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Bnew Van 8254058 8261045

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8955627

HI ACE VANS 8252988

HiAce, L300 9296250

HIACE MB100 •4342613•

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 T7411356

MB Starex HiAce L3 8257135

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
DBM Bldg. I, Gen. Solano St., San Miguel, Manila

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

- **PROGRAM/SYSTEM SPECIALIST**
- **PROGRAMMER/ANALYST**

Qualifications:

- ☐ With Bachelor's degree, at least two (2) years relevant experience in the field of system development and maintenance
- ☐ Proficient in ORACLE RDBMS and knowledge of Jaguar CTS, Power Builder and/or ORACLE development tool
- ☐ With working background in the development of web-based application system

Submit applications to:

Ms. Mercedes Navarro
Budget and Management Bureau E,
Dept. of Budget and Management
DBM Bldg. I, Gen. Solano St.
San Miguel, Manila
Tel. Nos. 735-4822/4878

URGENTLY NEEDED:

PRODUCTION MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS:
- With 3 to 5 years experience in a Manufacturing Co.
- Preferably can speak Korean and English fluently
- Expertise in different bag assembly

Interested applicant can email at asgsubic@svisp.com or call Ms. Sarah at (047) 252-3420

FOR SALE

TRANSIT MIXERS
CONCRETE PUMPS
CONC. BATCH PLANT
TOWER CRANES
MOBILE CRANES
PASSENGER ELEV.
CEMENT SILOS
HOISTING MACHINE
SKID LOADERS
BACKHOE/GENSETS
STL SCAFFOLDINGS
Call Jho Tel. 723-8408 / 724-6115

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

TOYCO Trans Cars Vans Coaster Rental •800-6595•

TOYCO Trans Cars Vans Coaster Rental •800-6595•

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

TRACTOR 4x4 P55T 3672002

HOME APPLIANCE

TV 34&29" Sony/Toshiba REF 6-5-4 Dors All Lnew & Import 7767507

PETS

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

DOG TRAINING- Avail 50%Off / Money back Call 433-2091

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
LICENSED BY THE GOVT.
Tel : 721-37-36

SPORTING GOODS

Billiards P30/33/36/38 A1 Qlty-Bnew 8020566/8014494

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

Buy/Sell Ready 2Use HS & College Educl Plan 8061574

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
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Buying HP/Canon/Lexmark EMPTY INKJET CARTRIDGES P100-P250each FREE pick-up Call 8171430 (Makati) 4251549 (Quezon City) 09178480612•09198289230

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7259687

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

RITZ
FURNITURE / Used Clothing P.Books/Shoes/Bags/ Utensils/ Sewing Mach T.V.; REF; Stereo; Piano; Spkr etc. Call 373-2723 ; 373-2724

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Cash Van Salesman Male, Must know how to drive college grad preferred Pasig, Mand. resident 531-3356 • 531-5538

FEMALE

Accig Clerk Accing Grad Female Computer Literate Pasig, Mand. Resident 531-3356 • 531-5538

F-ESCORT • 0917-9593176

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8958112

TRAVEL AGENCY at SJ need Coll. Grad (pref. Tourism) 1-2yr exp in travel agency Pls. call 727-8430; 722-9798

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280730

Expd cook 5362729

FOOT SPA OPENING
Manicurista, Reflexolgy
Masseuse, 20 Wanted
882-3810 • 687-4298

IT PROFESSIONALS URGENTLY NEEDED 7344564

Masseur w/orw/o exp 9347633

NURSES & MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS URGENTLY NEEDED 7344564

•OFC.STAFF 9134470KARLA•

OFFICESTAFF 9134470 AL

STAFF NURSE/Pque Hospital T-8322953 Info

•Urgent OFFICE STAFF 9134470 Lock for Mariel•

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost ACR # E022516 issued to Joselinda T. See was lost.

PHILIPPINE HANSE SHIP AGENCY, INC.
LICENSE NO 102-SB-091900-R VALID UNTIL: 25 SEP 2002
POEA ACC NO 22211-12 VALID UNTIL: 09 AUG 2003
ISO9002 Certificate No 953575

SENIOR OFFICERS

FOR FULLY REFRIGERATED LPG/ETHYLENE VESSEL FOR FEBRUARY EMBARKATION
1 MASTER
1 CHIEF OFFICER
1 ELECTRICIAN

FOR CONTAINER VESSEL - FOR FEBRUARY EMBARKATION
1 CHIEF OFFICER

FOR OIL/CHEM VESSEL - FOR MARCH EMBARKATION
1 CHIEF ENGINEER
2 SECOND ENGINEERS

FOR OBO VESSEL - FOR FEBRUARY EMBARKATION
1 THIRD OFFICER

CADETS
BSMT & BSMarE
(CHED Approved Schools) - FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE

FRINGE BENEFITS: Medical coverage for family members / Sponsored training and upgrading / Good career development prospects / Job Security / Financial Assistance / Allotment in U.S. Dollars / Free In-House Training.

YOU MAY APPLY IN PERSON FROM 0900 - 1700 FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY AND 0900 - 1200 ON SATURDAYS AT:

GERMANAVIS COURT
Evangelista corner Gen. Tinio Streets, Bangkal, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 889-2701, 889-2711 local 107 or
YOU MAY TRANSMIT YOUR BIO-DATA THRU FAX NO.: 889-2707 or BY EMAIL: recruitment@philhanse.com.ph

MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITERS
NO FEES WILL BE CHARGED TO ALL APPLICANTS
THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA

National Power Corporation
Small Power Utilities Group
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID
For the SALE of UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS
"as is, where is"

Date of Bid Opening : February 25, 2002

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
HULL BODY - consists of unserviceable/junk hull body of NPC Power Barge 112 located/ docked at Naga, Cebu Year Mfd.: 1992 Dimensions of Barge: Length : 24.58 meters Breadth : 10.37 meters Depth : 2.60 meters Draft : 1.8 meters	P 1,734,300.00

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 10:00 AM on **February 25, 2002** at the NPC-SPUG Office, 2/F Training Center Bldg., NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE; and
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2000) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)
3. CERTIFICATE OF SITE INSPECTION ISSUED BY THE MANAGER, SPBOD, SPUG-VISAYAS.

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Ms. P. F. VICTORIA at the above address or call tel. No. 9228449/ 9213541 Local 5583. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 1:00 PM on **February 22, 2002.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
(Sgd.) **R. C. CASTILLO**
Chairman

(PDI--Feb. 11, 12 & 13, 2002)

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone 8931320 ext. 5131 Fax 8401461

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Category B or IAC Medium Sub-Category A in Electrical Works or General Building - Building and Industrial Plants to apply for prequalification/ eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the Samar Rural Electrification Project, Stage III (22 Barangays) under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-015

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to the 22 Barangays located in the Towns of Borongan, Guiuan, Salcedo, Gen. McArthur, Hernani and Basey at Samar.

The prequalification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Raymond Sison) starting **February 7, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP 100.00).

The prequalification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of **February 22, 2002.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **March 13, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **March 22, 2002, 2:30 p.m.** at PNOC-EDC's CAC Conference Rm., Ground Floor, Building V.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address **not later than 2:00 p.m. of April 16, 2002** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder(s) whose bid(s) is(are) considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **Ester R. Guerzon**
Manager, Operations Services Division

(PDI--Feb. 12, 2002)

AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC. 1137 P. Gil St. Paco, Mla. Will sell all expired pledges left during the months of June and July 2001 on February 24, 2002, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.

YUPANGCO PAWNSHOP, INC. Pledges as of July-Aug. '01 will be auctioned at the ff. offices: Blk. 2-K 2nd Flr. Galleria Baclaran Taft Ave PC-Feb.19 '02-8:30AM: 200 Zapote Bacoor Cavite-Feb.19 '02-2:00PM, Apt. 5 South Superhighway Alabang Munt-Feb.26 '02-8:30 AM
J. Flor-Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Glbe11.25%Smrt 11.5% 745-9351

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Earn Up to 29T/mo. By Paying UR Monthly Bills 633-5527 • 633-5528 • 453-6562

FOOD COURT W/TIANGGE
Bldg under construction now!
Exactly across crowded LTO/LTFRB gates 4T/8T/mo.
Hurry limited stalls
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Globe Smart Big Disc 5325774

Great News! If you are not earning over 200T/mo.@ ur present network bus. Let's Talk Now 807-2359 RESH

INDEPENDENT Health Consultant 2413930 Ms Susan

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSINESS FREE TRAINING 2554643 OR 44 2569331 OR 36

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SAGOT SA KRISIS, SARILING BISNESI JUICE DRINK MAKING BUS. 2554643/44 ; 2569331

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 27 February 2002 at 2:00 p.m. of the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor.ner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LRD-145	No. 57 Faustino St., Lawang Bato (now Punturin), Valenzuela City	150 m² residential lot (TCT No. V-59978 with buildings and improvements, and two (2) candle moulding machines.	P 510,700.00
BATANGAS			
MED-132	Bgy. Sta. Rita (Carsada), Batangas City	590 m² two (2) adjoining semi-commercial lots (TCT Nos. T-43159 and T43160) with warehouse building.	P 2,280,000.00
CAVITE			
MGT-164	Bo. San Jose, Tagaytay City	10,980 m² untitled commercial/ residential lot (TD No. 2001-027-01428) with buildings and improvements.	P 23,989,000.00
MGT-165	Bo. Mambog, Bacoor	120 m² two (2) parcels of adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. T-935854 & 935855 with building and improvements.	P 854,600.00
ILIGAN CITY			
LRD-125 a	Mahayahay	1,612 m² interior lot (TCT No. T-57,198) (a.l.) with building and improvements.	P 4,784,500.00
LRD-125 b	Mahayahay	1,150 m² interior residential lot (TCT No. T-57,199) (a.l.)	P 3,162,500.00
LAGUNA			
LJG-146	Bgy. Caingin, Sta. Rosa	642 m² residential lot (TCT No. 478025) with three (3) residential buildings and improvements.	P 2,051,400.00
MGT-166	Bo. San Antonio, San Pedro	324 m² two (2) parcels of adjoining residential lots (TCT No. 468390 and 468391).	P 907,200.00
LANAO DEL SUR			
MED-167	Along Marawi City - Tamparan National Highway, Marawi City.	64,428 m² cogonal land (TCT No. T-116)	P 260,000.00
QUEZON			
VJC-83 a	Bo. Cabuguang, Tagkawayan	203,088 m² lot (TCT No. T-367909)	P 4,569,500.00
VJC-83 b	Bo. Cabuguang, Tagkawayan	205,758 m² lot (TCT No. T-367910)	P 4,115,200.00
RIZAL			
MBL-166	Lincoln Drive, Bo. Mayamot, Antipolo City	5,029 m² eight (8) parcels of lots (TCT Nos. 317013 to 317020) with unfinished residential building	P 8,500,000.00
VPI-35 a	No. 3 Ursula St., Milagros Subd., Bo. Dalig, Antipolo City	302 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-324296) with building and improvements	P 601,000.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
VCP-78	Bldg. #2, MIRDC Compound, Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig, M.M.	Various machinery and equipment (10 units) for manufacture of semi-conductors.	P 15,900.00 to P 683,100.00 (per unit)
VCP-53	FCIE Compound, Brgy. Langcaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Various machinery and equipment (11 units) for fabrication of bolts and nuts	P 16,100.00 to P 476,400.00 (per unit)
MGT-168	De Leon Hospital Compound, Provincial Road, Paombong, Bulacan	One (1) unit Light Truck, Isuzu diesel engine, model 4BEI.	P 45,000.00

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V; and
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M;

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI--Feb. 12 & 13, 2002)

To our valued clients,

"The previous year has been a great opportunity in serving you.

You have inspired us to continue our service and assistance.

We hope that we will proceed in this New Year with great accomplishments and success.

Happy New Year of the Horse!"

from,

ASIA UNITED BANK

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising HOTLINES:

HEAD OFFICE
8978808 loc. 514, 516
8994425, 8972535
8978425 (Telefax)
CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI
8925578, 8114361
8114370
KALAW
5280213, 5273342
MEGAMALL
6350219, 6350220

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY FOR THE OPERATION OF HIGH SCHOOL CANTEEN AND CONCESSIONAIRES FOR GRADE SCHOOL CANTEEN

Please submit the following requirements:

1. Company profile. Must have at least five (5) years of experience in Canteen Management for high volume catering.
2. Financial Statements and ITR for the past three (3) years
3. References from clients.

Address formal offer to the Canteen Committee, P.O. Box 657, Greenhills Commercial Center, San Juan, Metro Manila postmarked not later than Wednesday, 20 February 2002.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Komisyon ng Karapatang Pantao
(Commission on Human Rights)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS invites prospective bidders to Prequalify and bid for the supply of SECURITY AND JANITORIAL SERVICES.

Bidders are required to submit the following documents/ requirements for prequalification on or before February 22, 2002 at the General Services Division:

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business License/Permit 2002
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last 2 years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of Clients together with their addresses, telephone numbers and contact persons and number of persons deployed for each company
7. SOCIA-PNP Clearance for Security Service only

For inquiries, please contact or see:

MS. CONSOLACION L. LIMONGCO
Chief, General Services Division
3rd Floor, SAAC Building, Commonwealth Avenue
UP Complex, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 928-2018 and 925-3880

(Sgd.) COMM. ELIGIO P. MALLARI
Chairman, Committee on Bids and Awards

(PDI – Feb. 12, 13 & 14, 2002)

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB No. 02-020-02

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

CONTRACT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LRT LINE 1 SYSTEM

Bid documents can be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City, during regular office hours on **February 21, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference shall be held on **March 7, 2002** at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Pasay City.

The BAC Secretariat shall receive sealed bids not later than **March 22, 2002**, Friday, 10:00 a.m.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to the LRTA.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MELCHOR M. ALONZO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 11 & 12, 2002)

OBITUARIES

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

ARTURO HERNANDEZ ANOLIN

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 11, 2002 at the age of 59.

His bereaved wife **Editha**;
children **Mary-Ann** and **Ronald**, **Ande**, **Angelo**, **Jon-Jon**;
grandchildren **Samantha** and **Roanne**;
mother **Consuelo Hernandez Anolin**;
father **Desiderio Alfonso Anolin** (†);
brothers, sisters and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 14, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, February 16, 2002 at 9:00 AM.

JOSE F. HERNANDEZ

Passed away on February 9, 2002 at the age of 83.

His bereaved sister **Antonia vda. de Reyes**; children **Tomas**, **Jose Jr.**, **Milagros** and husband **Cancio Lee**, **Mario** and wife **Ma. Pilar Magsaysay**, and **Angelo**; grandchildren, nieces and nephews request your prayers.

Interment will be at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 13 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, after the Mass at Sto. Domingo Church.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

SULPICIO L. LAGARDE

Former Revenue Officer, Bureau of Internal Revenue

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 71 on February 10, 2002.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels, Bacolod City.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 14, 2002, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Bacolod Sacred Heart Memorial Park, Sum-ag, Bacolod City.

Our Dearly Beloved

EDMUND M. REYES

Joined his Creator on February 8, 2002 at the age of 21.

His bereaved Papa and Mama, brothers and sister, his loving girlfriend, relatives and friends request all pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Oro, 20th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City. Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, February 12, 2002 at Miraculous Parish Church, Project 4, Cubao, Quezon City at 8:00 a.m.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City at 10:00 a.m.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

JOVITA GOPIAO DAVID

returned to her Creator on February 8, 2002 at the age of 76.

Her husband **Vicente Dyoco David**;
children **Imelda** and **Chuck Engel**
Marion and **Maurice Cappelletti**
Annette
Rani and **Mark Safran**
and her one and only **Patricia Faith**;
her aunt **Lorma Mauricio**;

sisters and brothers, and their spouses, nieces and nephews and other relatives request the reader to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Good Shepherd Memorial Chapels in Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will take place on Thursday, February 14, 2002 at the San Fernando Catholic Cemetery following the 9:30 AM Holy Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

CARVER Mead, chair and founder of Foveon Inc., holds up a MacBeth color chart in front of a gallery of photos. Foveon hopes to shake up the digital camera industry with a new kind of image-sensing chip it claims could double the quality of pictures at either the same cost or less for camera makers. AP

Forecasters more optimistic about US economic growth

WASHINGTON—Forecasters are growing more confident that the US economy is on a path to recovery from the recession that began last March, according to a survey released on Sunday.

The February survey by the newsletter Blue Chip Economic Indicators showed more than 95 percent of economists expected the recession would be over by the end of March.

That was an improvement on a January poll that showed 90 percent of economists saw the recession ending in March.

In the latest survey, 42 percent of those polled thought the recession had already ended.

Forecasts for gross domestic product growth in this year's first and second quarters were also revised upward.

First quarter GDP was seen expanding by 1.6 percent in the February survey, up from January's projection of a 0.7-percent gain. The Blue Chip consensus looked for a GDP increase of 2.9 percent in the second quarter—better than a January prediction of 2.6 percent.

Blue Chip surveyed economists on their expectations for short-term interest rates in the coming year and the result indicated that most experts believe the Federal Reserve will be raising rates by the end of the year.

The group forecast that overnight interest rates would hit 2.55 percent by the end of this year—well above the current rate of 1.75 percent.

In a separate question, the economists were asked who they thought would eventually replace Alan Greenspan as chairman of the Federal Reserve. The top pick was John Taylor, a monetary economist who is currently undersecretary for international affairs at the US Treasury.

More than 40 percent of economists named him as Greenspan's most likely successor.

Runners-up included New York Fed President William McDonough, former US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Bush's economic adviser, Lawrence Lindsey.

Greenspan, who took the helm of the Fed in 1987, is currently serving a fourth, four-year term that ends in June 2004. ***Reuters***

Yen claws back gains against dollar

SINGAPORE—The Japanese yen clawed back some gains against the dollar on Monday on option-related buying and speculation that the Japanese authorities might talk the yen up ahead of President Bush's visit.

The Group of Seven industrialized countries meeting over the weekend had muted impact on the market as it passed without any strong comments on currencies.

The market had expected the world's richest countries could discuss the Japanese currency, whose 15 percent losses since September raised concerns about export competitiveness from US manufacturers and other Asian countries.

The yen clambered off its morning low of 134.98 in a subdued market thinned by a holiday in Japan. There was talk of some players trying to prevent the dollar from rising above 135 where dollar/yen call options will be set off.

Dealers said the market remains generally bearish on the yen as most players believe Japan needs a weaker yen to get itself out of economic troubles.

But in a shorter run, some analysts are convinced the yen is poised for a small reprieve. UBS Warburg has recently issued a sell dollar/yen recommendation at 134.55 with a stop at 136.50 for a correction back toward 130.

"We recognize that the country's fundamentals continue to be dire and the market continues to look for JPY weakness as one way to tackle the country's debt and deflation traps," said Mansoor Mohiuddin, currency strategist at UBS Warburg in Singapore.

"But in the near term, the existence of strong options barriers in the 135-156 area plus some near-term upside risks suggest the JPY may gain some respite now," he said.

Yen's brief reprieve

Analysts said the market was betting that Japan might try to talk the yen up or come up with plans to bail out its ailing banking sector ahead of Bush's visit to Tokyo and other countries in region later this week. ***Reuters***

Malaysia's corporate revamp–the real thing?

KUALA LUMPUR—The restructuring of billions of dollars of bad loans and overhauls of Malaysia's biggest debtors have raised hopes the country is swallowing long-overdue medicine for corporate ills laid bare by Asia's financial crisis.

Though critics say the business revamps have put too much power in political hands, more precisely Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's, others say exactly that should help speed the process.

What most agree on is that last June's resignation of finance minister Daim Zainuddin fired the gun for restructuring to start.

Daim said he was too tired to carry on, but there was talk of a bust-up with Mahathir, who took over at the Finance Ministry.

Malaysia's Corporate Debt Restructuring Committee (CDRC) said last month it helped eight companies restructure 8.8 billion ringgit ($2.3 billion) in debt between last August and December, leaving 18 billion ringgit to tackle by its own July deadline.

Among those rescued were the country's two light rail transit operators Sistem Transit Alieran Ringan (STAR) and Projek Usahasama Transit Ringan Automatik (PUTRA), buried under combined outstanding debt worth 5.7 billion ringgit.

The CDRC, whose non-binding role is to broker peace between debtors and creditors, has helped 37 firms resolve debts of 34.5 billion ringgit since July 1998, when the regional crisis blew holes in all but the best-laid business plans.

FLAGSHIP OVERHAULS

More important have been a series of government moves to overhaul Malaysia's largest corporate debtors, starting last July with UEM/Renong, the flagship industrial conglomerate creaking under 30 billion ringgit of debt.

Similar efforts at national carrier Malaysian Airline System, diversified group Malaysian Resources Corp. and cellular phone group Technology Resources Industries (TRI) have helped create favorable media headlines and renewed buoyancy in the local stock market. ***Reuters***

Website finds recession makes a great read

NEW YORK—While CNBC's ratings are dragging along with the slumping stock market, the Internet-based research service Economy.com is in the middle of a boom.

As the economy soured over the course of 2001, Economy.com discovered to its surprise that subscribers were willing to pay for a glimpse of what lies ahead.

The success formula? Its talk of U.S. economic doom and gloom has hit the spot with skittish investors whose trust in Wall Street has waned, especially after the collapse of the much-touted Enron Corp.

"We have nothing to sell you except a $159 subscription," explained Economy.com Chairman and Chief Executive Paul Getman.

Favored for its reams of economic data and wealth of big picture commentary, Economy.com and its widely used subscription site, Dismal.com, is even making money online.

Founded as a consulting and research firm, Economy.com was surprised by a flood of traffic to its free Web site it initially set up to reach clients. It started charging users as a way to pay for the additional computers needed to keep it running smoothly.

The bad economy became a strong selling point for the service. For readers tired of the breathless coverage of stocks on cable television and stock-market-oriented Web sites, it became a destination site.

"When the economy started slipping, the traffic really started rising — big time," Getman said.

"We'd already invested a huge amount in IT (information technology) and, overnight, we couldn't go out and double the bandwidth and double the servers," Getman said, explaining the need to make Dismal.com's readers pay for access. ***Reuters***

Model:	SRP	Down Payment	4 Months	1st Payment	4 Months	2nd Payment	4 Months	Last Payment
Jeep Grand Cherokee	₱3.2M	800,000	OBLIGATION	800,000	OBLIGATION	800,000	OBLIGATION	800,000
Dodge Durango 4x4	₱2.7M	675,000	FREE	675,000	FREE	675,000	FREE	675,000
Grand Voyager	₱1.7M	425,000		425,000		425,000		425,000

* Promo Valid in Greater Manila Only.

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ECONOMIC TURNAROUND

Singapore raises forecast on export rebound

SINGAPORE—Singapore signaled its confidence in an economic turnaround on Monday, thanks to improved demand for its electronics exports, by raising its official growth forecast for 2002.

Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said in a Lunar New Year message the government revised growth expectations for the year to one to 3 percent, up from minus 2 to plus 2 percent.

The upward revision did not come as a surprise as private sector analysts had been raising their forecasts since the end of 2001, after flash estimates showed the fourth quarter grew 4.3 percent on an annualized quarter-on-quarter basis.

"You've got the impact of the fiscal stimulus probably coming through in the first couple of quarters and the export rebound should gather substantial momentum in the second half," said P.K. Basu, economist with Credit Suisse First Boston.

"I don't see too many impediments to recovery," said Basu, who has a forecast of 5 percent and were among those ahead of the government's typically more conservative forecast.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is expected to publish its economic survey for the fourth quarter shortly, following the prime minister's forecast.

A Reuters December poll of 10 financial institutions produced an estimate of 1.7 percent in gross domestic product for 2002.

Increasing signs of a rebound in the United States, a key market for the city state's electronics exports and a pickup in global tech demand, were poised to boost GDP strongly.

"Recovery could come through even earlier because the US economy is turning around rather sharply at the moment," Basu said.

Electronics comprise about 60 percent of Singapore's non-oil domestic exports.

The local economy, grappling with its worst recession in more than three decades, was estimated to have shrunk 2.2 percent in 2001 after sizzling growth of 9.9 percent the prior year.

"The risk is to the upside, it may exceed the 3 percent," said Joseph Tan, economist with Standard Chartered Bank, who has a forecast range of 2.5 to 3.5 percent for the year.

Pricing power was coming back to the electronics industry, suggesting there was some shortage in the industry, he said.

Tan said leading indicators worldwide had turned positive, and US electronic orders were on the upswing.

Singapore's Purchasing Managers' Index for electronics in January also offered a rare spot of good news, edging up into positive terrain at 50.2 percent, the first expansion in a year.

"Now we are quite confident of a recovery, second half for sure," said Chia Woon Khien, economist with ING Barings.

She said the first half was less certain because of weak unemployment numbers, which were likely to continue ascending, but the jobless rate—partly due to structural problems—was seen as a lagging indicator.

"It doesn't really hurt that much in Singapore because net positive growth is not coming from the consumer market. As long as the corporate sector is doing well, exports are running, we will do OK," she said. *Reuters*

Beijing accuses EU of breaking WTO rules

BEIJING—China launched a new salvo on Monday against a European Union decision to suspend imports of some Chinese foodstuffs on health grounds, accusing Brussels of breaking World Trade Organization rules.

"The EU's decision to ban imports of the Chinese products is using technical barriers to trade," said Cao Xumin, head of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce for importing food products.

"It is against WTO rules," he was quoted as saying by the state China Daily newspaper.

Last month the European Commission imposed a ban on imports of Chinese poultry, rabbit meat, honey, molluscs, crustaceans such as frozen shrimps and prawns, and pet food after an expert report said they could be contaminated with the banned antibiotic chloramphenicol.

The imports affected by the suspension were worth 288 million dollars in 2000.

Beijing protested vigorously at the EU decision, saying it could seriously affect trading relations, while a spokesperson for the Ministry of Trade and Economic Cooperation in Beijing called the move "unfair" and "unreasonable."

Jia Youlin, a senior official at the Ministry of Agriculture, was quoted by the newspaper Monday as saying the EU veterinary report which sparked the ban was riddled with errors.

His ministry had submitted a list to the EU of "factual inaccuracies and mistakes," the report added.

"As a new member of the WTO, China will fully apply the WTO rules to safeguard its interests and reserves the right for further reaction on this regard," he said. *AFP*

GM unit: 'No interest' in Tyco

NEW YORK—General Motors Acceptance Corp. said Sunday that it was not considering making an offer for Tyco International Ltd.'s financing arm.

"The chairman, John Finnegan, told me last week when I asked him, 'Definitely no interest in Tyco,'" said Jim Farmer, vice president for GMAC communications.

"He told me we've never had an interest in Tyco," Farmer added, saying he spoke again with Finnegan on Sunday night about the situation.

GMAC is the financial arm of top automaker General Motors Corp. The division provides not only auto financing, but is also in the business of mortgages, insurance and commercial finance.

A source familiar with the situation told Reuters last week that GE Capital, the financing arm of General Electric Co. and top US banks Wells Fargo and Co., Citigroup Inc. and FleetBoston Financial Corp. expressed interest in Tyco's financial unit Tyco Capital.

Sources also had said GMAC was interested.

All five companies declined to comment.

Tyco last month shocked investors by announcing it would split up into four publicly traded companies, a major break from its previous strategy of growing through acquisitions. After the company's stock value plummeted, though, Tyco said it would look to sell its financing unit, which has more than $50 billion of assets, instead of taking it public. *Reuters*

SCHOOLGIRLS inspect a 2-meter tall replica of Venus de Milo sculpted of white chocolate I TOKYO. Japanese confectioneries wind up their business since chocolate is the most popular Valentine's Day gift from a woman to a man in Japan. AP

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Microsoft sees 3G links

STOCKHOLM—Microsoft Corp. chair Bill Gates said here his company was in wide-ranging talks with Nordic mobile phone giants Ericsson and Nokia on potential collaboration to develop new technologies for the next generation of mobile phones (3G) and handheld computers.

Gates, who was in Stockholm to receive an honorary doctorate from the Royal Institute of Technology, said Microsoft had "a lot of dialogue with Ericsson" on 3G, which when launched as soon as next autumn would offer high-speed access through mobile phones to the Internet and other mobile applications linking computers, phones and the Internet.

"We spent the morning talking with key people at Ericsson. We're certainly doing a number of things with Ericsson in terms of their internal IT efforts, in terms of how we support 3G," Gates said.

He said Microsoft was also talking to Sony Ericsson, a joint venture between Ericsson and Japanese consumer electronics powerhouse Sony for production of mobile phones.

"We're talking to those people to see if there's anything we can do there as well," he said. *AFP*

Unisys set to recover

BLUE BELL, Pa.—Unisys Corp. has said it will enter the year with a portfolio of services and technology that positions it to take advantage of market opportunities as the economy recovers.

"We have weathered the storm of 2001, and our operations remain profitable," Unisys chair and chief executive Lawrence Weinbach said. "We have made clear progress toward our vision of providing total solutions for our customers' needs, with services the driver and technology the enabler."

Reviewing the company's accomplishments in 2001, Weinbach said Unisys benefited from tight cost controls and an improved balance sheet.

He said the company continued to expand its long-term annuity services business, enhance the skills base and management team in systems integration, and transition all its technology platforms to Unisys Cellular Multiprocessing architecture to add value to its customers' businesses.

3Com maintains position

SANTA CLARA, California—Market research firm Cahners In-Stat has reported that 3Com Corp. has strengthened its leadership position in the copper-base gigabit ethernet market with 29.8 percent of the market's switch ports shipped worldwide during the third quarter of calendar year 2001.

3Com shipped a total of 35,000 gigabit ethernet over copper ports, according to the figures in the report.

"Again, 3Com leads in the gigabit over copper space, as noted by Cahners In-Stat, with customers choosing 3Com over the competition for solutions that are easy to own, install and manage," said Karen Oddey, vice president, marketing and business strategy for 3Com's business networks company.

Start-up invents first chip to rival firm cameras

SANTA CLARA, California—A Silicon Valley start-up claimed Monday it has invented a computer chip that enables digital cameras to produce images rivaling those made on 35-millimeter film.

The company, Foveon, said it has accomplished that milestone by using digital image sensors that have pixels that capture red, green and blue light, the major spectrum colors.

A pixel—short for picture element—is the smallest element capable of being displayed by digital video and still photographs.

Current pixels capture only one major color and computer chips within the camera must "guess" at the saturation of the other colors.

Foveon X3 technology, as its inventors are dubbing it, allows each pixel to display all spectrum colors without computer assistance.

This, the company claims, means cheaper digital cameras capable of capturing images indistinguishable from high-end expensive film and digital cameras.

Though digital cameras have made great strides over the last few years, only the most expensive digital cameras have matched film photography for color quality and sharpness of image.

"Foveon X3 technology enables the immediacy and excitement of the digital photography experience with the quality that consumers have previously come to expect only from film," said Foveon chief executive Jim Lau in a statement.

"Current image sensor technology has not enabled digital cameras to realize their full potential," he added. "We believe the breakthroughs of the Foveon X3 technology will form the foundation of a new generation of digital cameras in all classes."

These new class of digital cameras will be first shown at a Florida digital photography show on Feb. 24, the company said.

The first run of Foveon X3 image sensors will be made by National Semiconductor Corp., one of the Foveon's investors.

The first digital cameras using the technology will be manufactured by Sigma. *AFP*

Airline bosses see brighter skies ahead, but urge reforms

LONDON—There are brighter skies ahead for airlines battered by the recent slump in air demand, but carriers must cut costs and capacity if they are to return to profitability, say industry executives.

At a recent forum here on the state of the airline industry, airline bosses said that passenger numbers were showing signs of recovering as the fear of flying sparked by the Sept. 11 deadly hijackings dissipates.

But Sept. 11 only aggravated the downturn in demand for travel, which was already in decline because of the global economic slowdown, they said.

Moreover, many of the airline industry's problems stem from the use of state aid to prop up inefficient carriers and from foreign ownership restrictions, speakers at the Economist Conferences' annual airline forum said.

Andrew Sentance, chief economist at British Airways, said there were some encouraging trends emerging, pointing to signs of stabilization in passenger numbers and cuts in capacity in line with the fall in traffic.

"But it's too early to talk of a sustained recovery," he warned. BA last week reported that its financial result nosedived into a 160-million-pound ($225-million) loss in the troubled December quarter.

"The prospects for global economic recovery are key elements in how quickly the airline industry will recover."

Austin Reid, chief executive of bmi british midland, warned the traditional link between economic activity and airline traffic had been broken by terrorism.

"Yes, there is light at the end of the tunnel. But it is difficult to tell when the recovery will come, quite what the industry will look like and who will be around to enjoy it when it arrives," he said.

"I expect to see the industry return to profitability in 2003, as the US market fully recovers and airlines adopt cost bases more appropriate to their revenues."

National flag carriers have been slashing jobs and capacity in the wake of Sept. 11, leaving low-cost budget carriers looking to muscle in on their markets.

According to Kevin Dobby of the International Air Transport Association, 120,000 airline jobs have already been lost because of the crisis and another 200,000 could disappear.

Speakers said cost-cutting would be key to the recovery in the industry, because a rebound in passenger numbers would not, in itself, be enough to ensure a return to profitability.

Chris Tarry, airlines analyst at Commerzbank, said: "Market share is not everything. It's also about yields. If airlines don't make adequate returns, no one's going to invest in them."

He said it was clear a more appropriately sized industry was needed, adding: "It is very much a question of addressing a pre-existing condition."

The bankruptcy of national carriers, such as Swissair and Belgium's Sabena, has sparked a heated debate over whether governments should sustain flag carriers regardless of their commercial viability, something many executives oppose.

"It's a pretty easy business, the airline business, but it's screwed up by government intervention," said Willy Boulter, executive vice president of South African Airways.

Reid at bmi warned that the use of government aid would stymie efforts to consolidate the industry.

"There may be more airline failures," he said. *AFP*

BUSINESS

Alcordo extends leave by six months

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. president Jesus Alcordo has extended his leave of absence for six more months while the administration decides on who his successor will be.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said Alcordo extended his leave from Feb. 5 "to take care of his personal financial concerns."

Perez said Napocor veteran Roland Quilala would act as officer in charge in Alcordo's absence.

He explained that Alcordo would resume his post unless a replacement for him was chosen within those six months.

"But if we do find a replacement, we will terminate his leave of absence, and he will resign," Perez added.

The secretary said the administration was currently reviewing a short list of possible successors.

Last month, Perez had to clarify that Alcordo was merely on leave after reports came out that he was fired due to the third blackout that hit the whole of Luzon in eight months.

"In fact, instead of (letting him go), we only advised him to take a leave so that he could attend to his personal problems," he said.

He added that when Alcordo had settled everything, he was welcome to return as Napocor chief.

For his part, Alcordo clarified that he had already resigned as early as November, but that he was asked to stay until Malacañang could name his successor.

In a related matter, the fact-finding team tasked to investigate the Luzon-wide blackout on Jan. 21 has yet to disclose its findings whether a contractor should be held liable for the incident.

ALCORDO

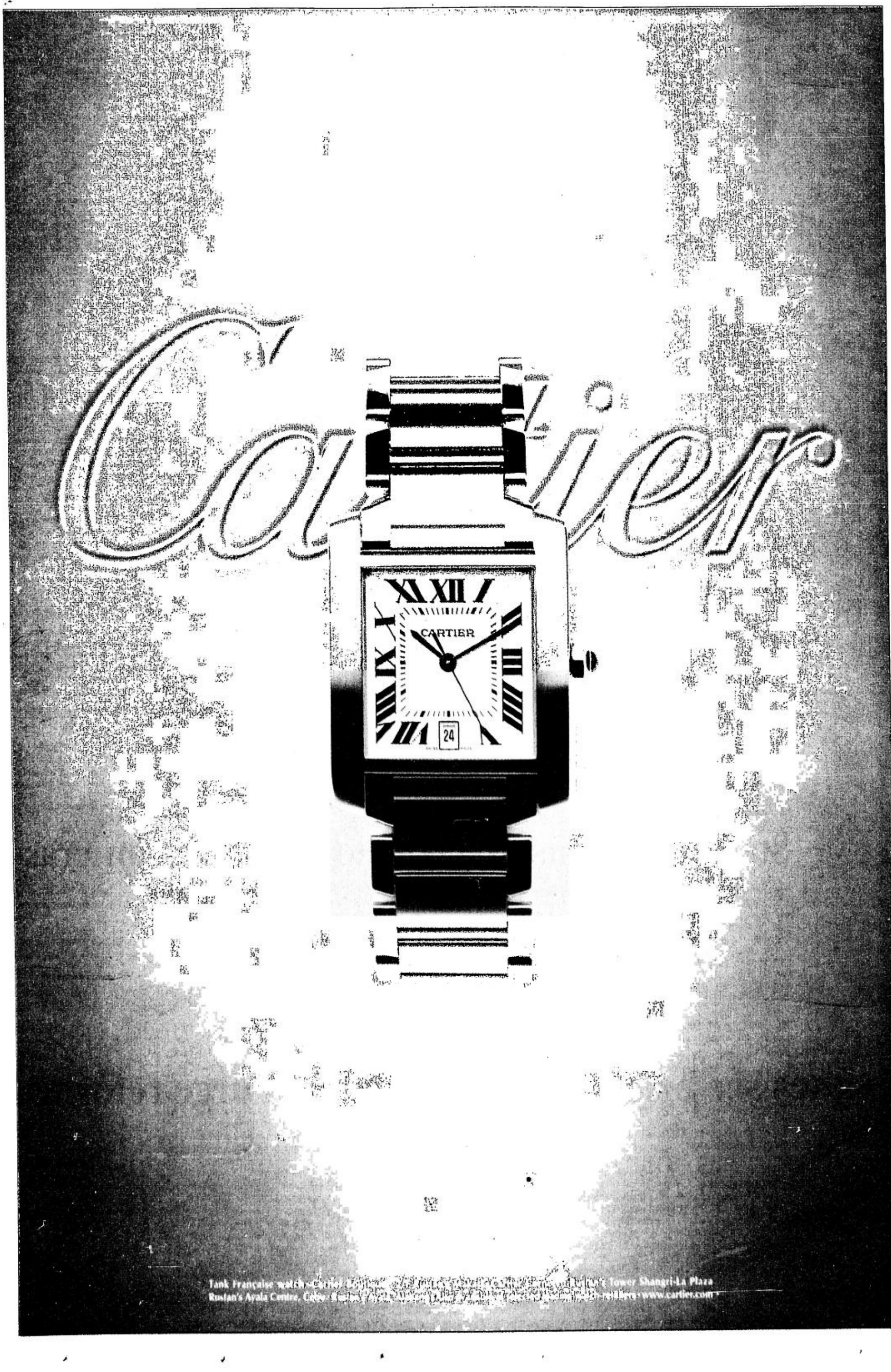
Foreign brokers want longer trading hours

By Elena R. Torrijos

FOREIGN stockbrokerages are asking the Philippine Stock Exchange for an even longer extension of its trading hours to capture business from European investors.

In a letter to the PSE floor trading and arbitration committee chair Eddie Gobing, representatives of foreign stockbrokerages said the local bourse should extend its trading hours from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. instead of from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

They pointed out that most European investors were dealing live in Asia by working at 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. London time, or 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Manila time.



Hancock's RP unit chalks up rosy data

THE PHILIPPINE unit of American life insurance giant John Hancock posted a 167-percent increase in first-year premiums last year to P65 million from the level recorded the previous year, largely as a result of a new product and marketing program.

In an interview, John Hancock Life Insurance Corp. president and chief executive Mike Plaxton said the company was targeting to triple last year's new premiums sales record.

"Looking at the economy, it's more than achievable," Plaxton said. "I'm very positive about the future, especially this year."

Plaxton attributed the robust 2001 sales performance to the establishment of signature partners, a program to get successful entrepreneurs to offer John Hancock insurance products by leveraging on the network of existing businesses in other fields.

The program, set up in November, accounted for 20 percent of first-year sales for the month of December alone.

The company saw its sales rise also because of the introduction of University Savings Plan, a product geared to finance education of the beneficiaries of plan holders. The product represented 55 percent of total sales last year.

Plaxton said new products would be offered this year to complement the 7-to-8 plan being offered by the company.

NIA sets $52-M solar plan

THE NATIONAL Irrigation Administration is working on a $52-million solar power project in Mindanao that US firm World Water Corp. is set to finance.

In an interview yesterday, NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras said he had asked the National Economic and Development Authority to evaluate his agency's plan to build modern irrigation pumps powered by the sun's energy.

The US Trade and Development Agency is currently studying the feasibility of this project, he said.

"The USTDA will partly finance the feasibility study of this project amounting to P300,000. The rest of the funding will come from World Water Corp.," Paras said.

The solar power project is one of NIA's largest projects this year, apart from irrigation projects that state-run China National Construction and Agricultural Machinery Import and Export Corp. is set to finance. ***Christine A. Gaylican***

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE Fitness

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Triumph over troubled waters

NOT for the feint of heart are the Class IV whitewaters down Chico River.

By Cecille Ferrer
Contributor

IF you think whitewater rafting is only for the stout of heart and agile of mind, you're right. But although it is ranked among the extreme sports, it doesn't mean you can't take the family to enjoy it and give them a weekend to remember.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "Lito" Camacho did just that. With wife Kim and their children, he rose to the challenge of taming the Chico River's famous section of Class IV whitewater in the Tinglayan-Tabuk area.

Other members of the Young President's Organization joined in, among them Eduardo Delgado of Delbros, who brought his wife Margarita and their kids; Haresh Hiranand, Marilyn Santiago, Kenji Yuchengco and David Yulo.

Naty Sugguiyao of the Chico River Quest Cooperative organizes rafting expeditions along the Chico River in the Cordillera Mountain. Trained Kalinga raft guides help adventurers negotiate these world-class whitewater rapids that expert American rafters Ned Sickels and Gary Fondren discovered four years ago via satellite mapping.

Rivers are rated on a six-point scale depending on difficulty and potential danger to the boater. Between Class I, which is fun for beginners because it's moving water with no rapids, small waves and a few rocks, and Class VI, which requires special equipment and a team of experts, there is a range of waves, movements, rocks, drops and technical maneuverings and required equipment.

Getting there

Experts say running the rapids is an all or nothing proposition. Unlike the game of tennis, there is no second serve. The challenge is to get it right the first time.

For the YPO weekenders, the trip started in Tinglayan, Kalinga Province, 445 km north of Manila. It took less than an hour's flight by

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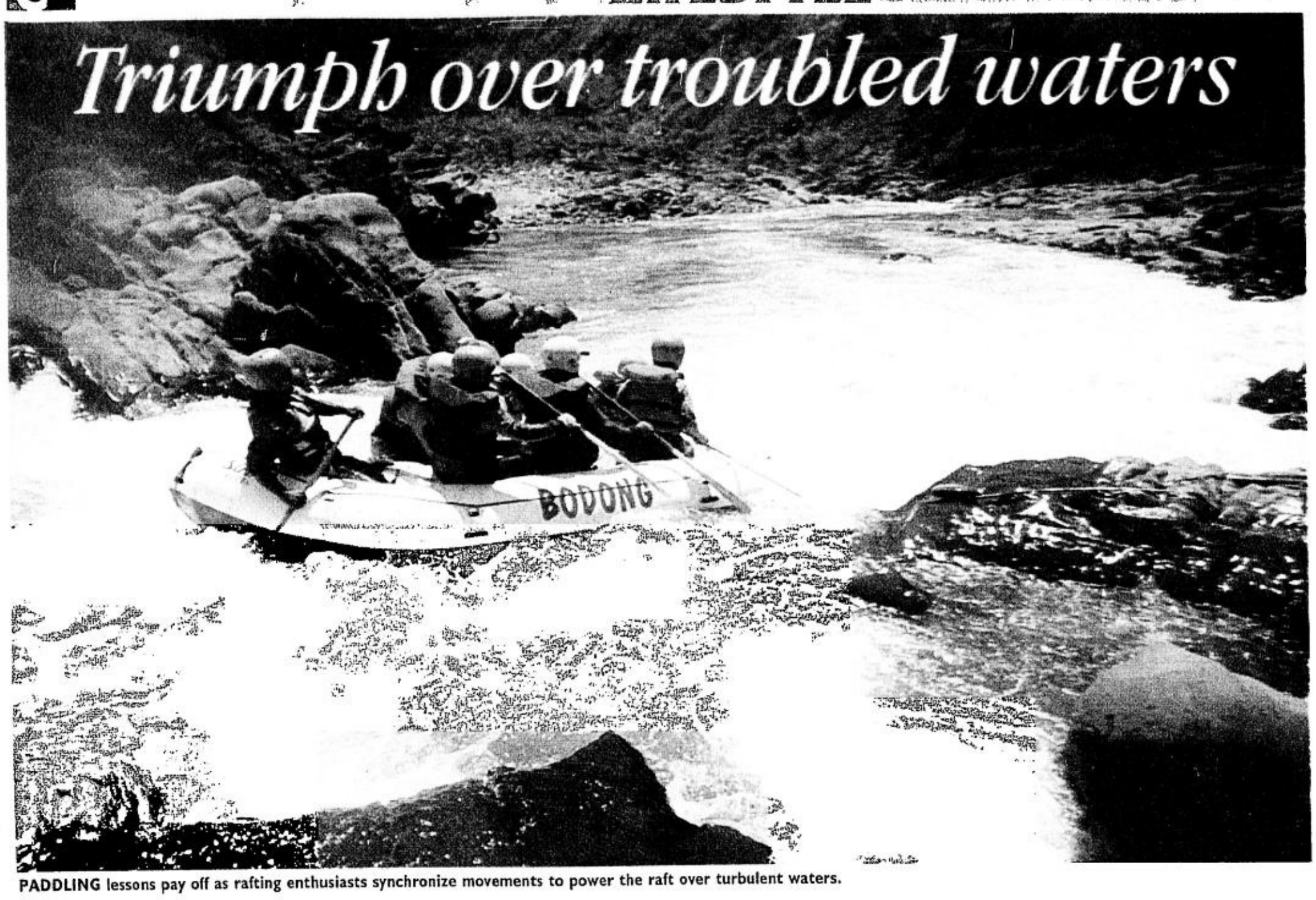
Rustan's

Triumph over troubled waters



PADDLING lessons pay off as rafting enthusiasts synchronize movements to power the raft over turbulent waters.

Finance Secretary Lito Camacho takes a break from helping steer the nation's economy by shooting the Chico River rapids

From page C1

Philippine Air Lines, but there's another dusty, bumpy one-and-a-half-hour land trip to Tabuk where the Chico River merged with Pasil River through a truly spectacular stretch lined by century-old trees, poinsettias growing in the wild and coffee trees in bloom. Ancient rice terraces rose majestically in the distance, while caves carved in the mountainside provided a mystical appeal.

In the village of Lubuagan, the party listened to Kalinga warriors playing on bamboo instruments and marveled at the hypnotic symphony that wafted out of the indigenous musical instruments. As the members watched the tribal elders weave on handmade looms, Kalinga coffee and sweet rice cakes were served.

A 5-km trek up the mountains of Kalinga gave a breathtaking view of the rice terraces. At one stop, the villagers of Niibat performed the traditional Kalinga Padatong or welcome ceremony. They also slaughtered a young pig as offering to the river gods for good luck and the safety of the travelers. A shaman interpreted the omens by reading the pig's liver. At this mountain, Camacho and his friends had the opportunity to meet a 102-year-old village elder and to see a side of the country that is not seen by many. There was electricity here and there were no telephones—life continues to be primitive for the village community.

Go with the flow

Afterward, the group continued the trip to Chico River. A rafting safety seminar was a must before serious white-water rafting could begin. Experts gave them tips on how to read the river, paddling and survival. "If pitched from the boat, just go with the flow; use your feet to push against the rocks, until the guides throw you a line to safety"—that was one of the lessons Kim Camacho could remember.

Finally, after life jackets were checked, the grip on the paddles tightened and, with the arm muscles tense as the rafts tugged at their lines, the river transports were pushed off the mooring to negotiate Class II and III rapids.

"The upper stretch was relatively calm. Boats drifted along until the rafts edged towards the drop. After wave after wave of roaring, churning water, we were in the white waters," recalled Margarita Delgado.

Lito Camacho's raft collided with another and all eight rafters were pitched into the river. He turned on his back and went with the flow of the rapids, using his feet to kick against the rocks as he moved to save his crew and family members. The Kalinga guides threw safety ropes and reeling to the rafters.

Negotiating Class IV rapids this time, the Camacho raft paddled furiously up major rock formations with expert maneuvering. "Watching Lito lead his crew, I began to understand how he navigates the turbulent waters of both Philippine and international finance," said Ed Delgado.

The Hiranand raft pirouetted and turned over, with Haresh managing to save himself and Marilyn Santiago drifting along as instructed until a guide reeled her to safety with a rescue rope. Kenji Yuchengco, the adventurous son of Tito Yuchengo, got whacked on the shin by the paddles.

WELL-DESERVED rest for the exhausted group after an extreme experience

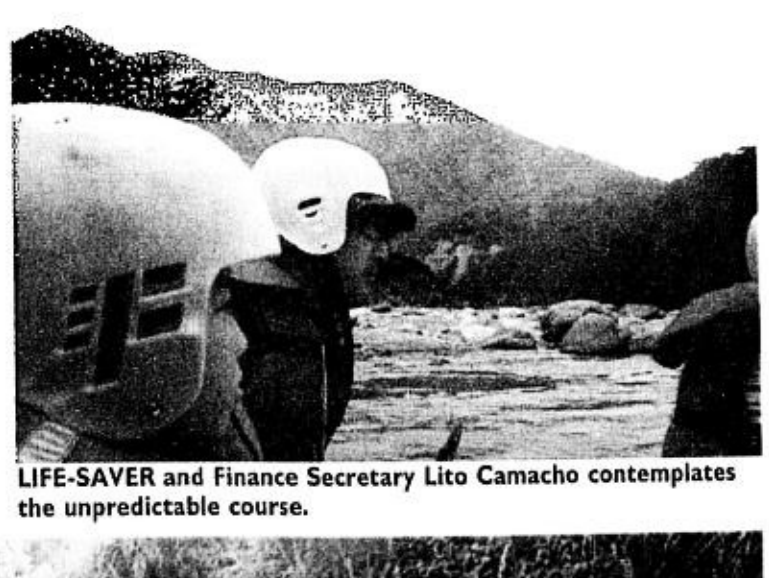
Awards

Although drenched by the cold waters, the rafters were still excited and exhilarated when they finally got back to dry land.

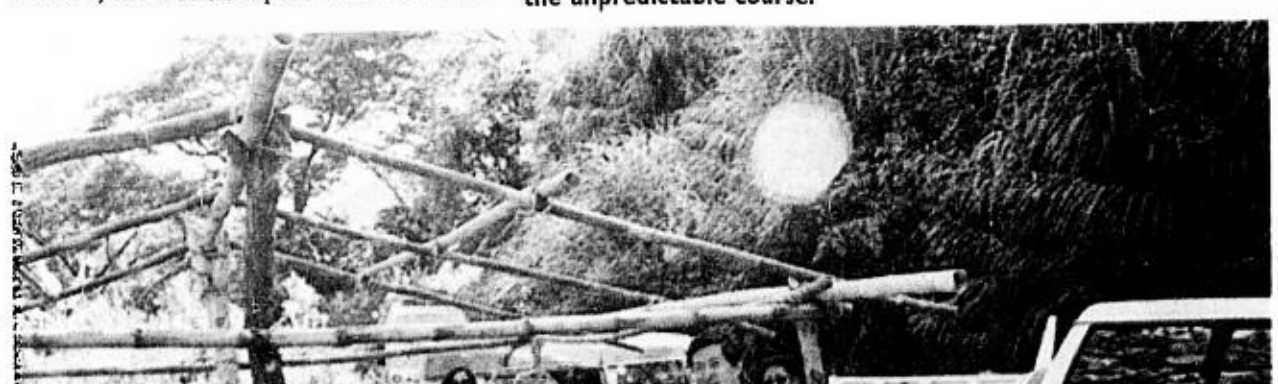
The day after their rafting, the group enjoyed the view of abundant wildlife along the wilderness river. Birds nestled on lush foliage while carabaos bathed in shallow river portions. Native nudist camps were also espied.

Everyone had a ringside seat on the famous Camacho raft afterward to take in nature while the awards were handed out. Lito Camacho got the Professional LifeSaver Award; Haresh Hiranand copped the Survivor Award for disregarding rescue efforts and saving himself; and Ed Delgado got the Most Boring Raft Award—no pitch out, no capsize.

For Camacho and the members of the Young Presidents' Organization and their families, the weekend provided deliverance from the city's oppressive rat race and the controversies in government. Surely, if one can manage a vertical ascent to 1,550 up the Kalinga mountains and conquer the Class IV rapids of the Chico River, all other challenges are surmountable.



LIFE-SAVER and Finance Secretary Lito Camacho contemplates the unpredictable course.



FAMILY AFFAIR. Lito with wife Kim and sons Simon and Jake at riverside picnic after the day's rafting activities

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A second list of dumb and dumber things you should never do in a gym

From page C4

clubs and resort gyms that are situated near the swimming pool. Instructors who work in these types of gyms tell me horror stories about children who come in dripping wet from the pool to fool around with the equipment.

By the way, the greatest number of accidents involving children and gym equipment happens in the home. So if you have home gym equipment, be smart and tell your kids, "Hands off!"

Compare yourself to others. Comparing your body or your performance with someone else is a pretty stupid thing to do. I know it is human nature to want what you don't have, but you have to rise above this attitude because it is a fast track to unhappiness. It is dumb to compare because someone will always have a better-looking body or a stronger/more flexible body than yours.

I know of young men who struggle under weights they can barely carry just because an older guy beside them can do it. Some women try to copy the exercise routine of the woman they consider to have the most attractive body in the gym, thinking her program will give them the same body also.

Lately, I've been hearing about "yoga jealousy." People feel they have to compete with stronger and more flexible yoga classmates. How dumb can this be? Yoga was meant to make you more at peace with yourself, with your fellow man and with the whole universe. How peaceful can you be if you keep comparing yourself to the human pretzel beside you?

Here's the bottom line: Genetics will always play a major role in the way you look and the way you perform. I know it's not fair, but that's life. It doesn't mean you cannot improve on what your family's gene pool has given you, but you cannot become someone else no matter how hard you try. The faster you accept this truth, the happier you will be.

Exercise without a deodorant. Let's face it. Unless you are one of the genetically gifted few, you will have B.O. if you exercise without using a deodorant. Stop challenging Mother Nature by exercising without underarm protection. Have pity on the people around you who have to breathe the air you are "perfuming." Have pity also on yourself because you will have very few gym friends and you will get embarrassed when the gym staff eventually talks to you about it.

The dumbest thing. I remember talking to someone who said he didn't believe in gyms because he had bought so many gym memberships over the years but he had never gotten fit. Intrigued, I asked him to explain to me what he felt was wrong with the fitness program of the gyms he had enroled in. Lo and behold, I found out the guy had only gone to each of the gyms once—the day he paid for membership.

The dumbest thing you can do is enrol and never show up. Your gym membership card can't make you fit unless you actually go there and use the equipment.

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold a fitness seminar on Feb. 23 at the PCED University Hostel, UP Diliman. Personal training topics are "All About the Rotator Cuff," "Basics of Exercise Program Design" and "Understanding Your Back." Group exercise topics are "Pilates—The Stott Way," "Latin Aerobics," "Leadership Skills" and "Funky Jabbin' (kickboxing)." For beginner instructors, there will be a two-hour session on "Exercise Physiology." Call 842- 0567.

For questions and past articles or exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com.

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— EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Wall slide

THIS exercise strengthens the muscles in the front of the thighs (quadriceps), back of the thighs (hamstrings), buttocks and inner thighs.

Equipment:
Wall.

Exercise technique:

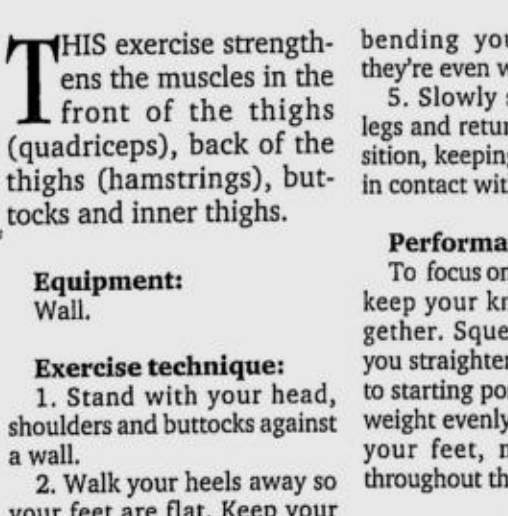
1. Stand with your head, shoulders and buttocks against a wall.
2. Walk your heels away so your feet are flat. Keep your feet together.
3. Keep your back straight against the wall, but don't lean on it; use it for balance.
4. Slide down the wall, bending your knees until they're even with your hips.
5. Slowly straighten your legs and return to starting position, keeping head and torso in contact with the wall.

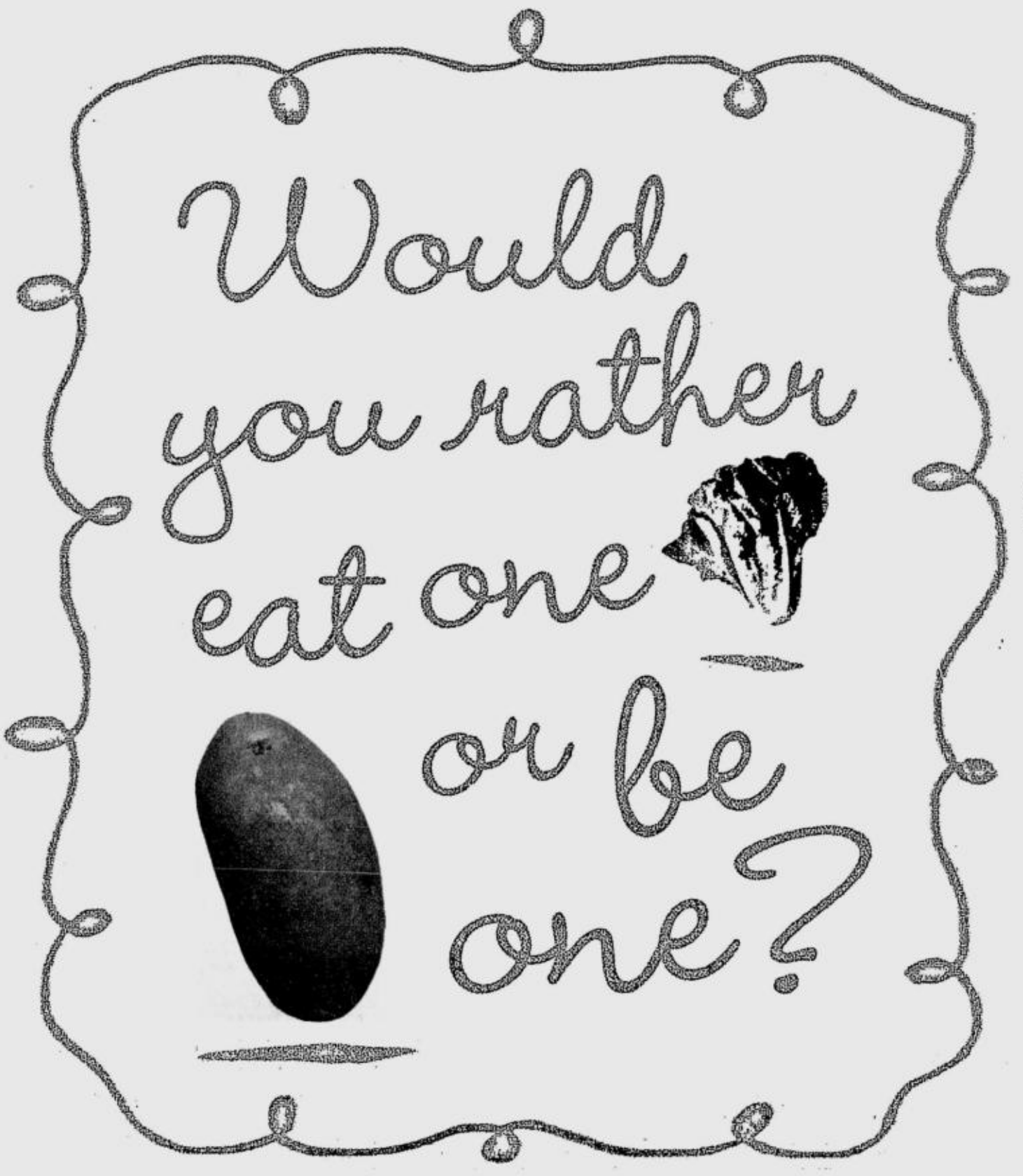
Performance tips:

To focus on the inner thighs, keep your knees pressed together. Squeeze buttocks as you straighten legs and return to starting position. Keep your weight evenly distributed over your feet, not your heels, throughout the exercise.

Repetitions:

Move down in four counts, move up in four counts. Do one to two sets of 12-15 repetitions each.





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A second list of dumb and dumber things you should never do in a gym

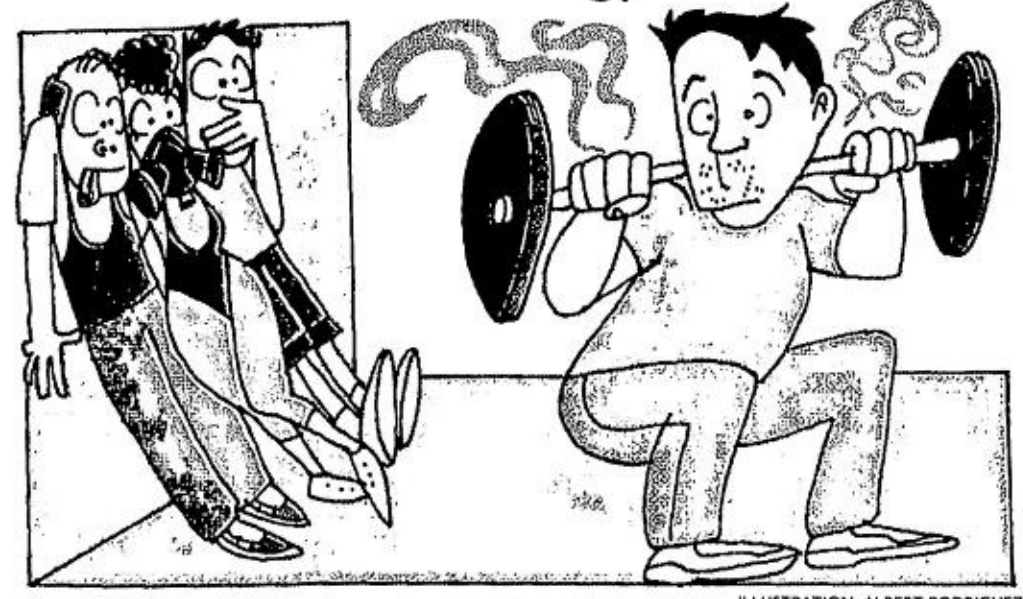

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

HERE are more dumb things you should never do in a gym.

Leave equipment lying around. This is a rule we all should have learned in kindergarten—return what you use. This rule is important in a gym setting. Someone can sprain an ankle if he trips over dumbbells or ankle weights that are carelessly left lying around. Unfortunately, some people think the primary job of the gym staff is to pick up after them so they take no responsibility whatsoever in returning small pieces of equipment that they have just used.

Not only is this inconsiderate (you use up the time the trainer could have spent instructing other people), but it is also dangerous. Besides, the next person who could trip over that weight belt that was thoughtlessly left on the gym floor by an irresponsible person could be you!

Lift heavy weights without a spotter. Lifting heavy free weights (dumbbells or barbells) without a spotter or safety hooks (available on some brands of free-weight stations) is like skydiving without an emergency parachute. If your regular chute fails to open, you are a dead duck.

In the same manner, if you are into heavy-duty weight lifting that pushes your muscles to the limit, you never know when you will experience instantaneous muscle failure. This is a reflex action meant to protect your tendons (connective tissue that connects muscle to bone) from tearing when the body senses that the weights you are carrying are too much for you.

Unfortunately, if this happens, the dumbbells or barbell you are lifting will fall straight on your face, chest or toes. The spotter or safety hooks are meant to save you from making an unnecessary trip to the emergency room of the nearest hospital.

Choose your spotter well. Make sure he knows how to properly grab hold of the weights if you lose control. Be sure he is strong enough. Make sure, too, that he is keeping his eyes on you and not on an attractive person who is working out across the room. If your gym's free-weight equipment has safety hooks, for goodness sake, use them.

Be a gossip in the locker room. You never know who is in the toilet or shower as you are yakking your head off to a friend about someone else. More people (mostly women) than you can imagine have gotten caught with their foot in their mouth by gossiping in a gym locker room. Be discreet. Whisper if you can't control the urge to talk. If you don't want an impromptu catfight in the locker room, gossip to your heart's delight only when you are in safer territory. Actually, even on the gym floor it's wise to watch your tongue because you never know whose relative or friend is working out beside you.

Bring your kids to the gym. It is dumb to bring young children to the gym and allow them to run around because a gym is full of machines with moving parts that can easily cut off or smash inquisitive little fingers. Most gyms have rules about this, but I know of many instances when parents get upset at the gym staff when they are told their kids should not be there. Don't be this kind of parent.

> The dumbest thing to do is enrol and never show up. A gym membership card can't make you fit unless you go there and use the equipment

The gym is only trying to protect your children from harm as well as protect their other members from getting annoyed and their machines from getting destroyed. This scenario of kids running wild happens a lot in country

A SECOND/ p.C3

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LIFESTYLE

LESTER Pimentel demonstrates the Chang Chuan or northern style wushu.

Wushu *is for* self-defense *and* stress-relief

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Romy Homillada

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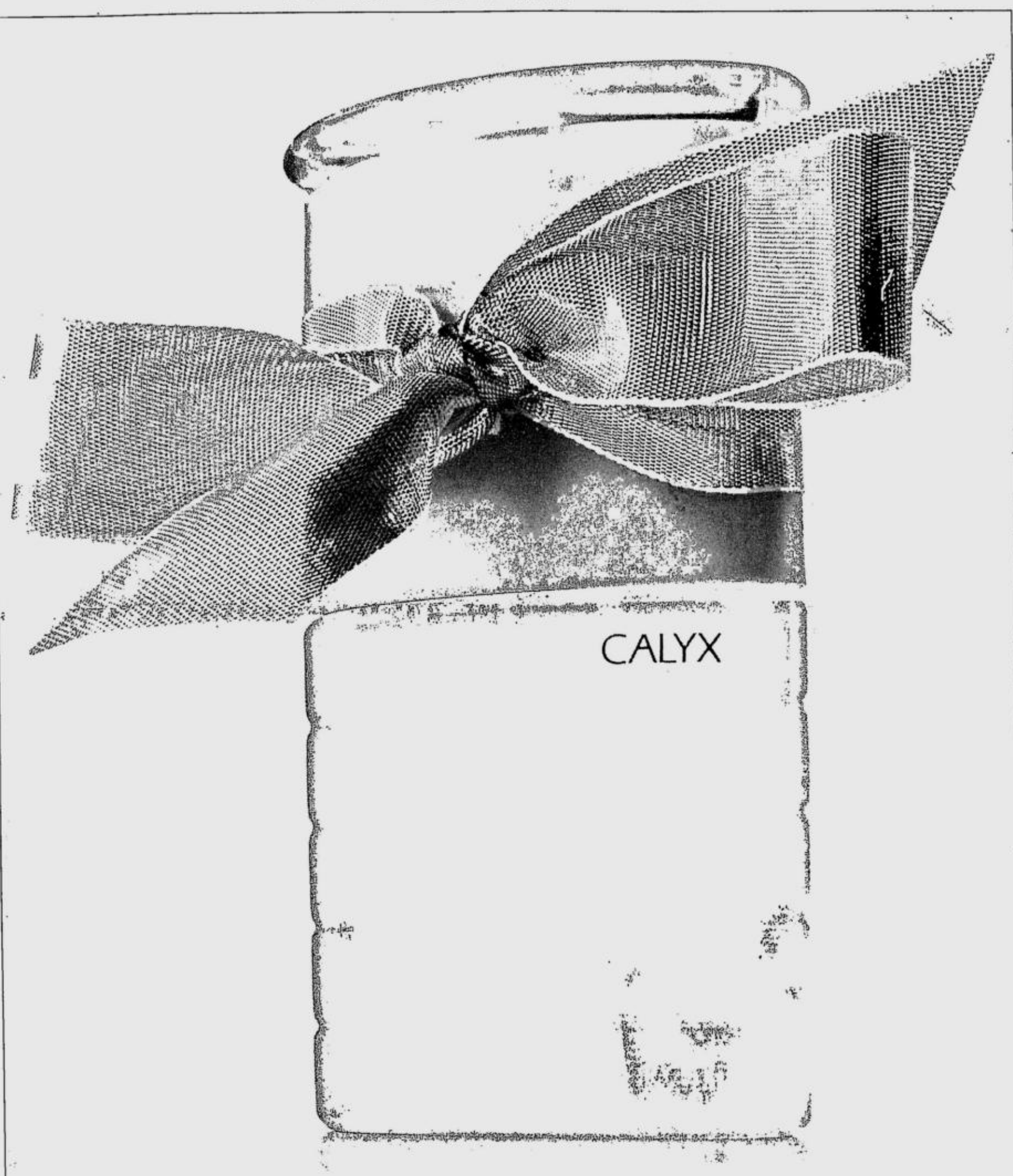

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HSBC will feature a 15-minute exhibition of these Chinese martial arts, including portions on sparring and handling of short weapons, at 11:30 a.m., Feb. 15, at the lobby of the Enterprise Center in Makati City

MARTIAL arts expert or not, a person's first impulse is to avoid danger. But for wushu champion Lester Pimentel evasion wasn't an option when he found himself in a sticky situation several years ago. A stranger he had an argument with over parking space in crowded Binondo, chased him with a lead pipe.

Trapped in a corner, Pimentel had to defend himself from his aggressor.

Pimentel's instincts, developed through years of martial arts training, took over in an instant. He managed to parry the blows before eventually overpowering and turning the tables on his attacker by hitting the guy with his very own lead pipe on the shin. "It did hurt him," he says, "but it was far from fatal. I only wanted to immobilize him."

The poor fellow probably learned his lesson never to pick fights with the likes of Pimentel again. But to Pimentel, who has been into wushu since he was 8, the episode underscored once more the true purpose of martial arts—be it wushu, karate, tae kwon do, or the country's very own arnis: "Never use it for any other purpose but self defense."

With a few exceptions, of course. Pimentel, now 27, and his colleagues from the Wushu Federation of the Philippines occasionally conduct public exhibitions to promote the sport. One such exhibition is scheduled at 11:30 a.m., Feb. 15, at the lobby of the Enterprise Center in Makati City.

The show, sponsored by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC), will feature a 15-minute wushu exhibition choreographed by Pimentel. It will include portions on sparring and handling of short weapons using various wushu styles. The event is part of HSBC's efforts to help promote Chinese arts and culture. Other activities, which are also set around the Chinese New Year, include sessions on tea tasting and Chinese painting.

The real thing

Wushu, which literally means martial arts, originated in China almost 1,500 years ago. It is not to be confused with kung fu, says Pimentel, which means skills. "Kung fu could refer to other forms of discipline." China's neighbors, such as Japan and Korea, later developed karate and tae kwon do, respectively, two forms of martial arts inspired by wushu.

WUSHU/ p.D2

STRIKING a pose before a sparring session.

Wushu is for self-defense and stress-relief

From page D1

STRAIGHT sword play

SWEEPING hand and leg movements characterize northern style wushu.

Wushu styles vary depending on the region. Chang Chuan or northern style conforms to the region's topography and the physique of people living in northern China (at least, during ancient times). "Since people in the north were generally taller and leaner than those in the south," says Pimentel, "their movements were more expansive, characterized by more jumps and kicks. They also lived in vast, open spaces which encouraged such movements."

The Nan Chuan or southern style emphasizes hand techniques over sweeping movements. "People who lived in the south were generally shorter and more stocky," Pimentel explains.

The ancient Chinese soon adopted wushu principles in weapons handling as well. At that time, only soldiers were allowed to carry bladed weapons so ordinary folks settled for sticks. Wushu movements were quite abrupt and sharp. Over the centuries, they evolved into an art form, becoming the focal point of countless sporting events.

"Like in most sports," says Pimentel, "one has to start training early in life to be able to excel in wushu." But anyone with a genuine desire to keep fit can take up the sport anytime. Wushu, he adds, offers a number of health and aesthetic benefits other popular forms of exercises can't provide.

• Wushu tones the arms, legs and abdominal muscles through a series of contracting and resting movements. It promotes agility, which eventually improves posture and strengthens the entire body.

• Unlike, say, jogging, wushu taps into a complex combination of joints and muscles. The twisting and turning movements associated with the sport aren't repetitive and confined to certain areas of the body. Thus, the person burns more calories at half the time without his being aware of it.

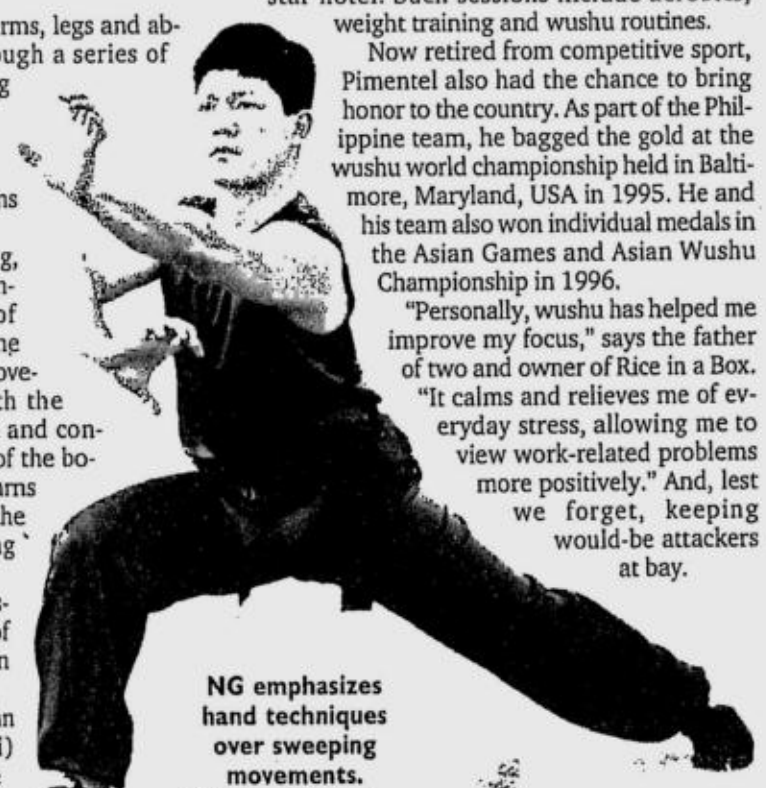
• It's a proven stress-buster and ideal form of aerobic exercise even among senior citizens.

In fact, Tai Chi Chuan (or simply Tai Chi) evolved through the centuries as a slower, kinder form of wushu. A literature provided by HSBC describes it best: It's absorbing, but far from exhausting or stressful. It consists of a series of slow movements designed to relax and develop the whole body. One can practice its full range of movements at any age.

Pimentel, of course, is decades away from slowing. He works out for two hours at least three times a week at the gym of a posh five-star hotel. Such sessions include aerobics, weight training and wushu routines.

Now retired from competitive sport, Pimentel also had the chance to bring honor to the country. As part of the Philippine team, he bagged the gold at the wushu world championship held in Baltimore, Maryland, USA in 1995. He and his team also won individual medals in the Asian Games and Asian Wushu Championship in 1996.

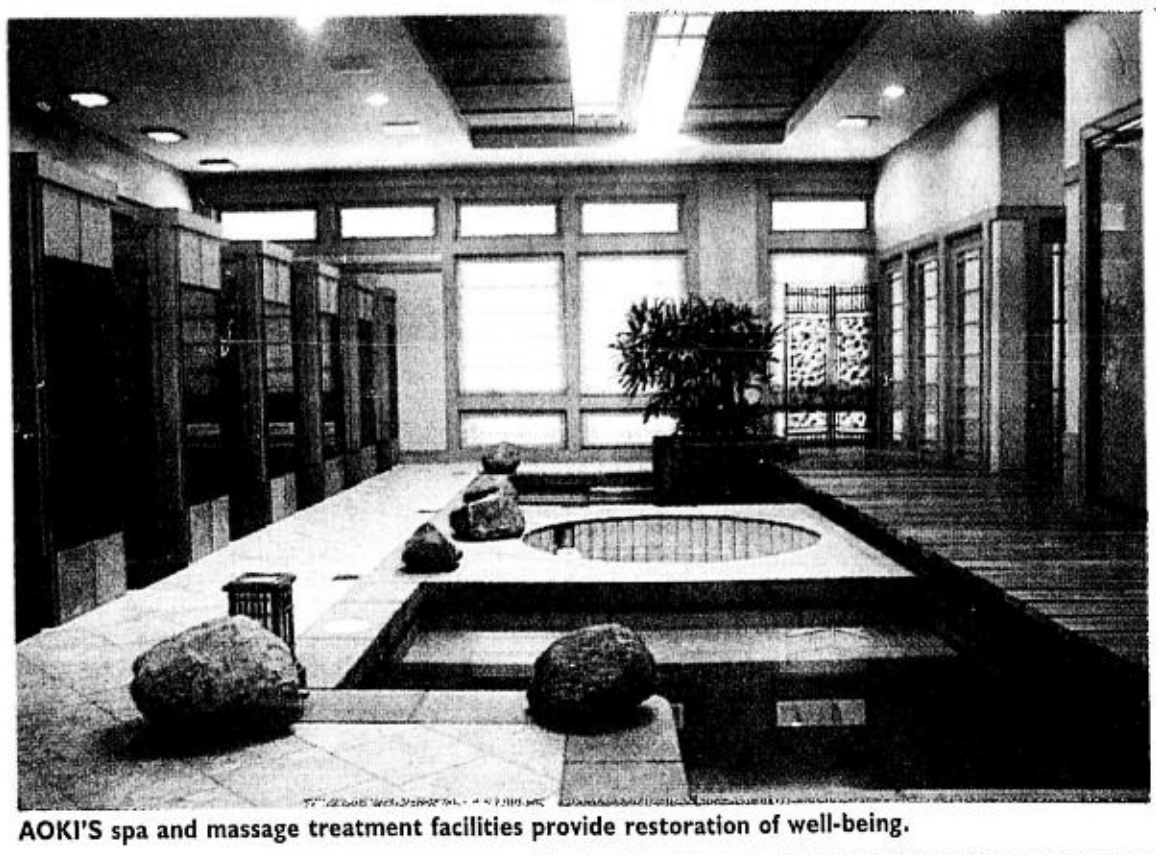
"Personally, wushu has helped me improve my focus," says the father of two and owner of Rice in a Box. "It calms and relieves me of everyday stress, allowing me to view work-related problems more positively." And, lest we forget, keeping would-be attackers at bay.



NG emphasizes hand techniques over sweeping movements.

RICHARD Ng shows the Nan Chuan or southern style.

Hie off to a clubhouse of tranquility



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AOKI'S golf shop

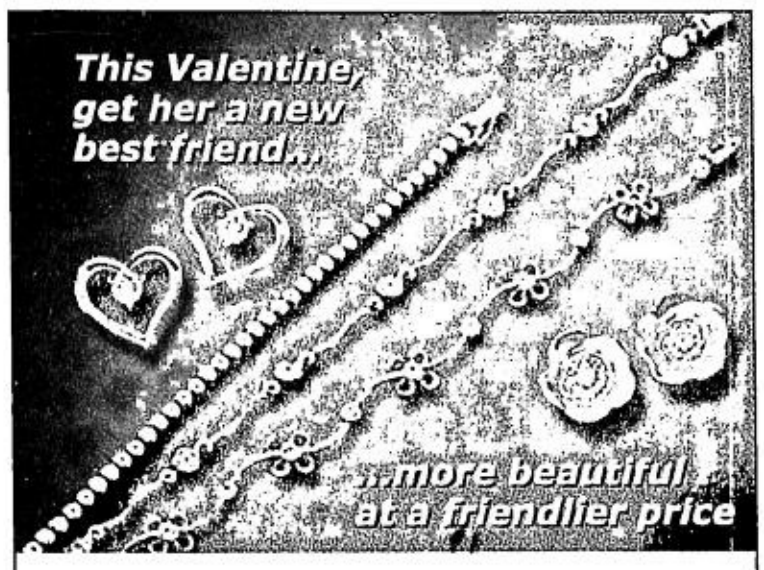
From page D4

the main clubhouse.

The 14,000-sq m Spanish Mediterranean-styled main clubhouse will serve the social and recreational needs of golf members and their families. It will be a 3-in-1 clubhouse facility, which include the Golf Clubhouse that has bag-drop house; golfer's lounge, dining area, massage and sauna bath, locker rooms, golf shops and business center. The Family Clubhouse will have the 450-sq m Digital Theater Sound (DTS) mini theater that can accommodate 171 viewers, 14-lane bowling area and hair and makeup salons, and children's play area. The Sports Clubhouse will have covered tennis and basketball courts, billiard and tennis table areas and swimming pool.

Eagle Ridge also has upscale residential communities covering an area of 300 ha. Florida-based Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez and Rinehart is developing the Eagle Ridge town center and landscaping of the residential complex. Another US-based design firm, HHCP Design International, designed the town center's buildings, which include hotel and lodge facilities, condominium towers, festival market and retail area.

Eagle Ridge Golf & Residential Estates is being developed as a golf mecca for Asia.



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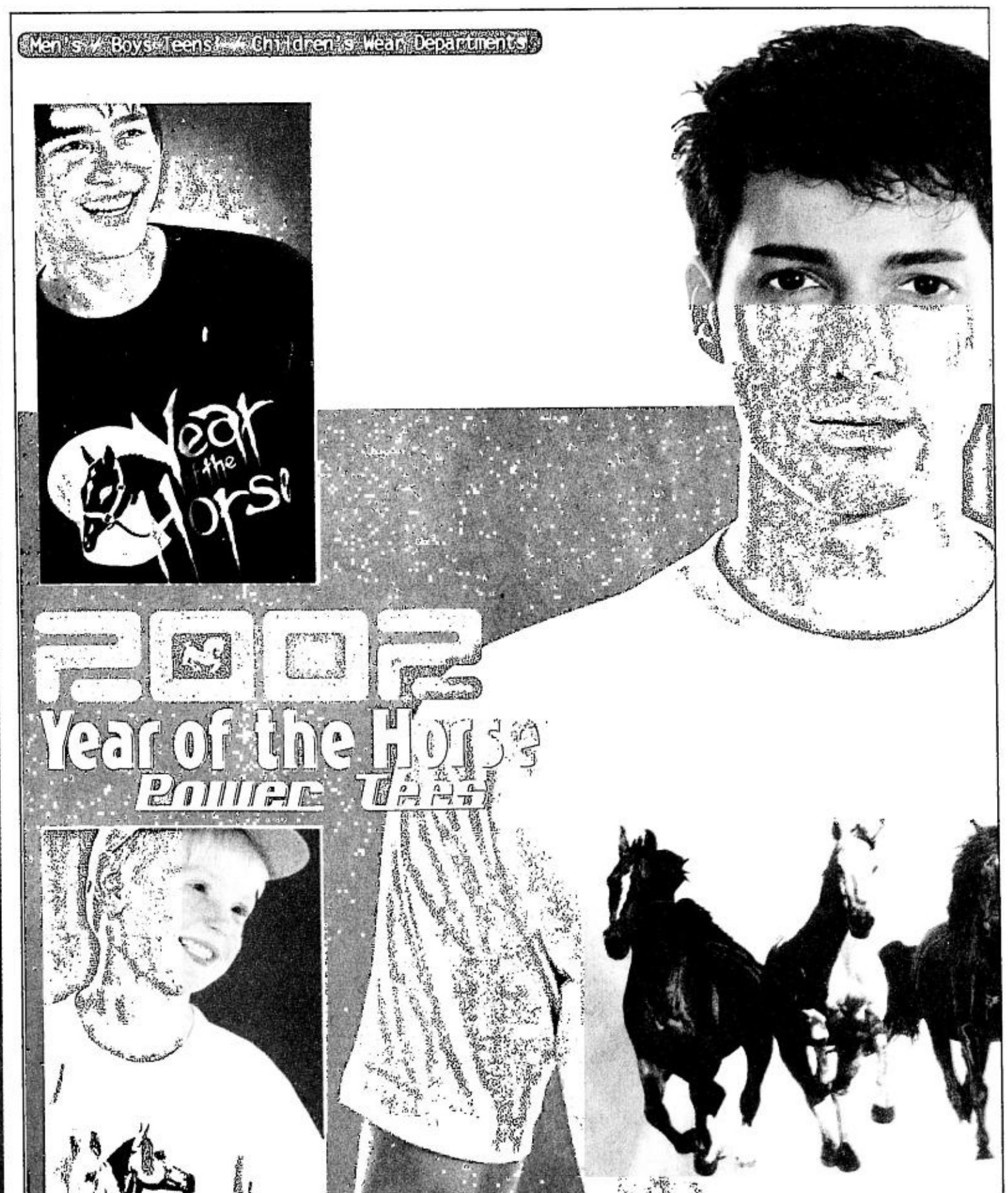

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Hie off to a clubhouse of tranquility

IF four championship golf courses cannot lure golfers to Eagle Ridge Golf Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite, then the Japanese clubhouse will, if escaping the hustle and bustle of city life is a top priority among golfers and their families.

The Eagle Ridge clubhouse is named after Isao Aoki, a Japanese golf champion and course architect who is the creative genius behind many golf courses in Japan and one in Thailand. But Aoki is also a champion player: he carded 73 victories (56 JPGA, five JPGA Senior, four Overseas and eight Overseas Senior victories).

Aoki's 18-hole course at Eagle Ridge reflects his trademark excellence and gentle manners as a golf master. He created a course that does not punish high handicappers and challenges golfers to play strategically. The course's contours emphasize controlled play: its landscape of manicured fairways and large bunkers confront the player to be deliberate. But it also allows golfers to play the course differently each time.

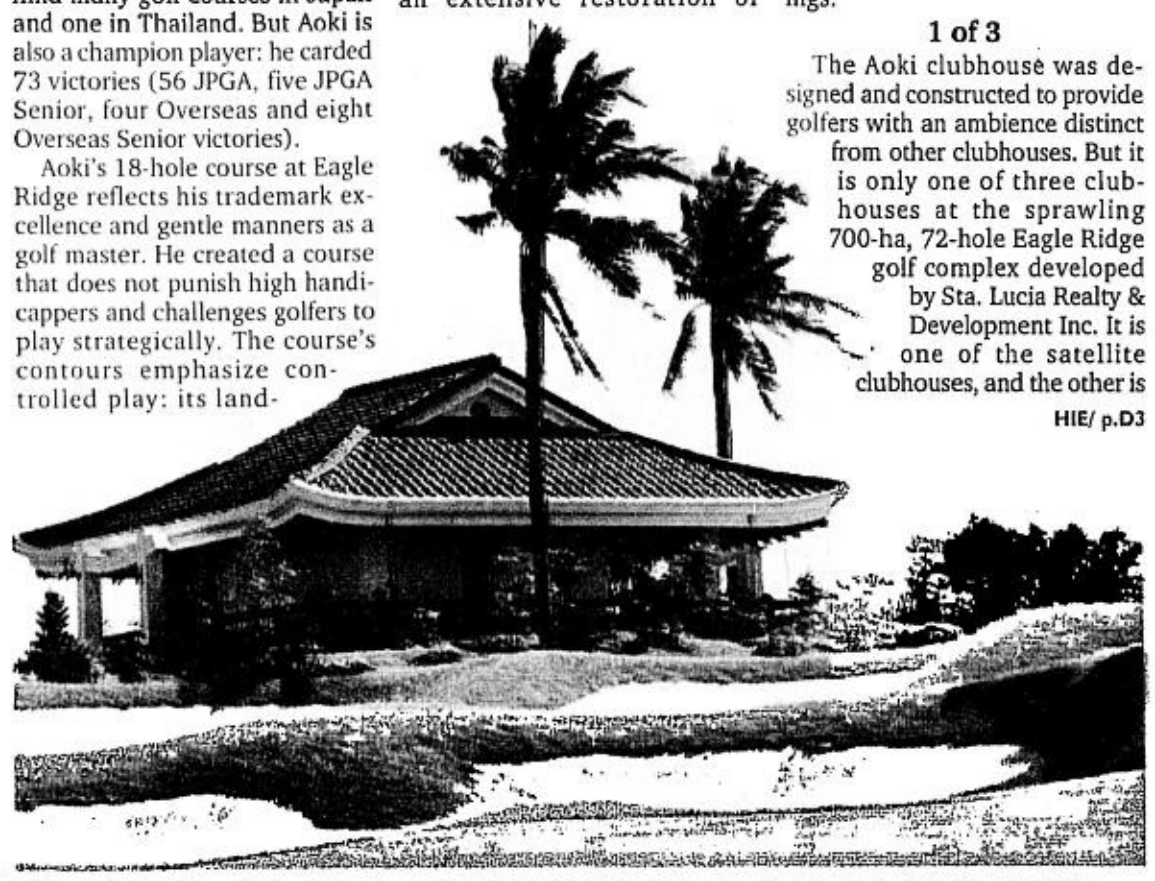
The Aoki clubhouse overlooking the course has a tranquil Japanese motif and has every amenity to relax and indulge golfers and their guests before they leave. It has the basic lineup of amenities: business center, golf shop, fine-dining restaurants and locker rooms. But it also has a spa and massage treatment facilities for an extensive restoration of well-being.

No paint was used to color the interiors. The interiors use natural stone and varnished exotic woods to accent a natural atmosphere. Exquisitely finished woodwork is installed throughout the entire clubhouse for aesthetic harmony. Red cedar, white cedar panels and rattan are abundantly used for pleasant color contrasts. The cedar panels also have a refreshing aroma, which adds to the therapeutic pleasantness of the surroundings.

1 of 3

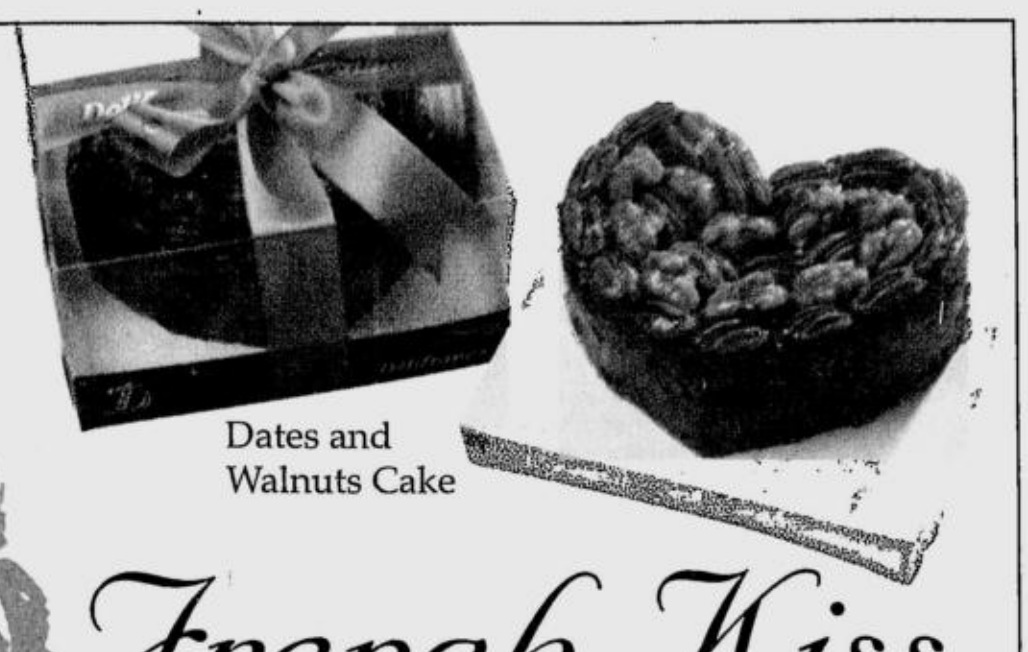
The Aoki clubhouse was designed and constructed to provide golfers with an ambience distinct from other clubhouses. But it is only one of three clubhouses at the sprawling 700-ha, 72-hole Eagle Ridge golf complex developed by Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. It is one of the satellite clubhouses, and the other is

HIE/ p.D3



THE EAGLE Ridge Aoki clubhouse serves recreational needs of golf members and their families.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph



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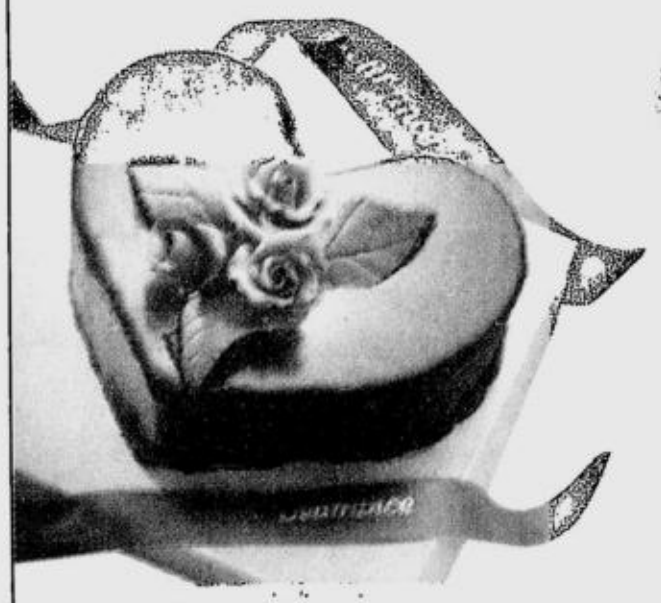

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- Libis, Green Meadows

February 10
10 am to 2 pm
- Alabang Town Center
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February 12
10 am to 2 pm
- UN Avenue
4 pm to 9 pm
- Robinsons Place Manila

February 13
10 am to 2 pm
- Greenbelt
4 pm to 9 pm
- Greenhills Theatre Mall

February 14
10 am to 2 pm
- Rockwell's Power Plant Mall
4 pm to 9 pm
- Greenhills Roosevelt

Greenbelt Mall *Paseo de Roxas* • Zeta Building *Salcedo* • Philam Tower *Paseo de Roxas* • Pacific Star *Gil Puyat* • Rockwell Center *Power Plant Mall* • Robinsons Place *Ermita* SM City Manila *Arroceros* • SM Centerpoint *Sta. Mesa* • Quintin Paredes *Binondo* • U.N. Avenue • Greenhills Theater Mall • Libis Q.C. • Robinsons Galleria *Ortigas* Starmall *Shaw blvd.* • Eastwood City Walk *Libis* • Alabang Town Center *Muntinlupa* • Festival Mall *Filinvest Alabang* • NAIA Terminal 2 *Domestic & International* SM Supercenter *Sucat* • Shell-SLT *Muntinlupa* • Greenhills *Roosevelt* • Glorietta I *Makati* • The Podium *ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center*

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0091 Series of 2002.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

14 ways to love yourself on Valentine's Day

IT is said that love isn't love until you give it away. While the spirit of this message may ring true, its premise can be challenged. Love, before it can be shared with others, especially with your beloved, must come from a deep reservoir or there wouldn't be any love to give. This source, akin to a power plant, is also called the inner self.

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

While there lies within us all a tremendous force for good from which emanate compassion, charity and kindness, we tend to take ourselves for granted, thereby depleting our power plants. How about a little kindness to the one person you have lived with since infancy—yourself.

1. Forgive yourself. One of the greatest crimes against the self is an unforgiving heart. All your acts of omission and commission that may have caused others and yourself pain can and should be absolved, or remorse and guilt will paralyze you and your right to personal happiness.

2. Stand before a mirror. Look at your reflection in the mirror. Gaze into your eyes. Talk to the inner you by calling out your name. Then say, "I forgive you. Get on with your life. I release you with love and understanding." Take a deep breath. Exhale. Then, smile.

3. Take a break. Whatever you are doing now, stop a while. You know, all work and no play?

4. Make a dream come true. Do something you always wanted to do. Climb a mountain, go bungee-jumping, take up a new sport or hobby, tell your secret heartthrob how you feel about him/her so that it's no secret anymore, fly a kite, write a book, save a child, build a church or your dream house.

5. Catch a sunrise. Clearly, the symbol of beginnings, the sun is your star of hope. Be-

How can you give when you're running on empty? Fill up by being nice to yourself before worrying about what to give others

14 WAYS/ p.E3

AFFAIR OF THE HEART

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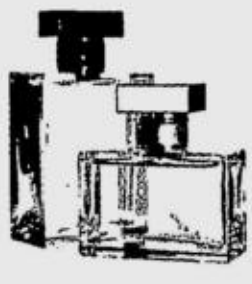

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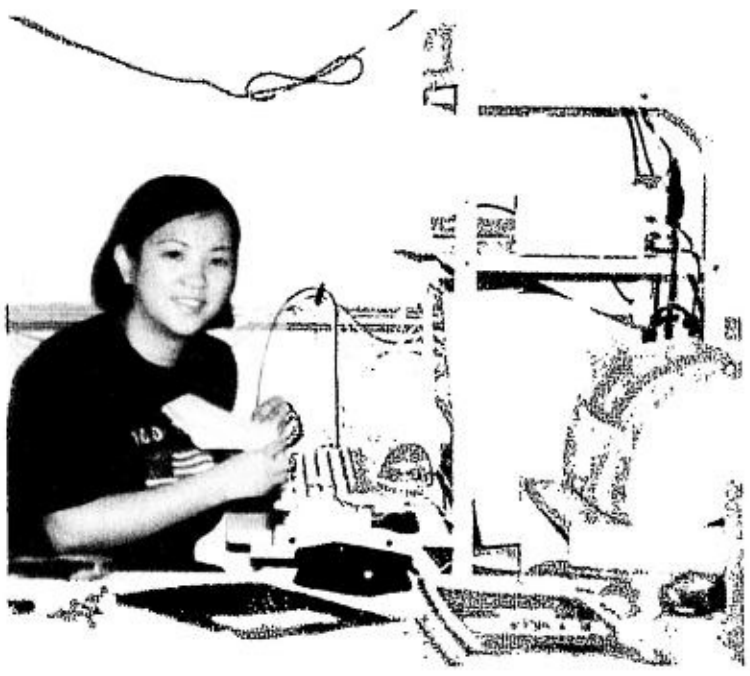
Reinventing feminine pads for women's specific needs



GIGIT Vargas

THE FAST-PACED lifestyle of today's women is revolutionizing the development of various products, particularly feminine pads. This is prompted by a consumer survey that reveals women's problems with their pads, which can hardly cope with their specific needs.

"Such problems are, in fact, even worse for those who live a very active and demanding lifestyle," claim many of them who can't afford to skip their daily routines just because of this menstrual hassle.

"To me, the monthly period is no longer an embarrassing issue that deserves to be placed at the backburner or under the rug," says sportswoman and entrepreneur Joy del Rosario, coowner of the Ocean Colors dive shop on Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City.

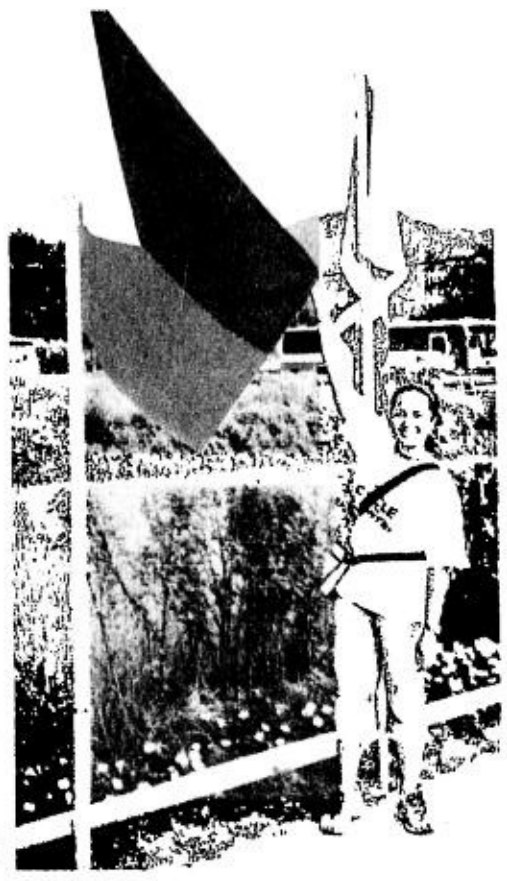
"It (menstrual cycle) just can't keep me off my job," Joy stresses even as she admits that the inconveniences that go with it can pose a real test to one's sanity. "There are times when your menstrual flow is so strong that you are totally uncertain if your pad can absorb all that wetness. Even then you have to be out there because you have a job to do," explains Joy, who manages the dive shop as well as organizes trips to key dive destinations in the country.

Like Joy, another busy body, Gigit Vargas, has no qualms about discussing her menstrual woes. Gigit, who owns NeZT Network Hub & Business Center on Kalayaan Avenue in QC and manages a family, complains not only of the poor absorptive capacity of certain napkins, but also of their inadequacy to adapt to an active woman's lifestyle.

"For example, there are pads that bunch, or can't stay in place. Others have very sharp edges that cause rashes and itchiness especially when you move a lot like I do," Gigit explains.

But to Anya Santos, a young volunteer coordinator of a nongovernment organization that builds houses for the poor, the biggest problem is the overflow, which often occurs at night. "The feeling of wetness distracts my sleep after a hard day's work and it can really be very disgusting," Anya reveals.

Anya, Gigit and Joy represent today's generation of hardworking and dynamic women who expect the same level of commitment



ANYA Santos

from companies that supply their needs. "In this age of modern technology, you'll wonder how some products still lack the vital features that consumers like us look for," Joy says.

Her sentiment and those of Gigit and Anya are among the consumer views gathered by Procter & Gamble in its effort to continuously upgrade its products, particularly its Whisper brand of feminine pads.

"Given the lifestyle and character of today's women, P&G must continue to develop, upgrade and even reinvent its products to meet their specific needs and, thus, remain attuned to the times and ahead of the competition," says Whisper's Asean brand manager Patricia Matthias.

Patricia refers to the revolutionary pad design and technology that P&G has just developed for Whisper, the first brand in the country to offer Wings, Dri-Weave and Ultra Thin Gel Technology.

"The New and Improved Whisper is a major improvement from the old product and performs much better than other pads in the category," Patricia adds.

Launched only recently, New and Improved Whisper is designed to meet every woman's needs in every situation through its three purpose-oriented variants—Light to Regular Flow, Regular Flow and Heavy Flow and Overnights. "This allows you to choose the correct pad for your flow needs," Patricia says.

"New and Improved Whisper has a new core bonding technology that enables the pad to stay flat on the underwear without bunching, and with better absorbency to protect you from leakage even during the heaviest day of your period, or when you sleep at night," Patricia explains. She cited another innovation—a new dual "quicksorb" layer that "quickly absorbs menses," thus preventing leakage and keeping skin clean and dry.

"All in all, New and Improved Whisper provides the gold standard in feminine protection, providing women with superior protection they can count on," Patricia says.

JOY del Rosario

SLMC introduces limb-lengthening method

ST. Luke's Medical Center's Institute of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine introduces a new surgical system on limb lengthening and straightening by regenerating the limbs and doing away with the Ilizarov apparatus, in a project dubbed "Fitbone."

The Ilizarov method involves an operation, which applies an external contraption. Wires are threaded through the skin and muscle that lie over the bone to be lengthened or straightened. Metal rings are secured with telescoping rods and a small cut is made in the limb between the rings. Through this opening, the outer hard layer of bone is cut and the soft inner marrow is left undamaged. The Ilizarov apparatus pulls the two sections of bone apart creating a gap. New bone cells form in the gap and harden throughout the lengthening. An external fixator manipulates bone fragments with metal bars and transfixion pins.

St. Luke's "Fitbone" is a technology developed by Wittenstein intens GmbH in cooperation with Ludwig-Maximilians University Hopital in Munich. The purpose of this technology is to eliminate the disadvantages associated with the Ilizarov method, such as a patient's discomfort, long hospitalization, risk of infection, insufficient callus generation, scar tissue formation and the need for repeated surgery.

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Everything begins with the mind

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I RECEIVED a thought-provoking reaction from a reader, Ernesto Magtoto, (ernestomagtoto@yahoo.com) to my column (PDI Lifestyle, 01/29/02) regarding visualization. Here's his letter:

"I was a bit puzzled by your article, 'Visualize what you want realized,' which opened with the statement: 'Man lives in a multidimensional reality, but because he is so focused on the physical plane, he thinks that's the only reality there is and orthodox materialist science has perpetuated this myth.'

"I presumed you would then proceed to explain the subtle reality of the 'unknown,' which would enable the readers to better understand their own nature. You, however, stressed the need to focus on visualization, which is a mental act that brings one back to the physical-mental reality, instead of the spiritual reality which I am sure is what you meant.

"The question is, isn't it better to approach one's living through the soul (spiritual) rather than through the ego (mental)? If the answer is affirmative, then one would obviously need to discern, rather than think. For, while thinking takes place in the mental on the basis of memories, discerning, however, is activated only by emptying the mind of all its contents.

"There is a particular perspective to human perception that must be understood and enhanced, if false notions will be discarded for truth's sake. It is this: it is only through a soul identification, not an ego identification, that one can transcend the egoistic tendencies that go with the physical-mental yearnings of mortal man. In other words, relying on thoughts, imaginings and visualizations must give way to intuition or discernment. The former is a mental act, the latter is a spiritual process and the fact is that we have neglected the latter by living exclusively in the former.

"Come to think of it, isn't it this mental act which produces the aggressive impulse that in turn has resulted in conflicts and wars throughout human history?"

I appreciate your comments. Let me explain. There are at least seven distinct levels of reality or planes of existence, each of which has its own distinct vibration or energy. I have been able to experience only the fourth and rarely the fifth dimension. These dimensions interpenetrate one another.

Cosmic law

When I talk of visualization, I am referring to that cosmic or universal law that states that whatever happens on the physical plane must first take place on the more subtle higher planes. "As above, so below," so the ancient mystics say. Nothing happens on the physical plane that did not take place first on some other higher planes of existence. For the sake of simplicity, we refer to these planes as physical, mental and spiritual.

From my point of view, everything begins with the mind (defined very broadly as the thinking faculty of the soul). Before a table becomes one, it must first exist in the mind of the carpenter; before a figure appears on the canvass, it must first exist in the mind of the artist, and before the sun, moon and stars appear in the sky, they must first exist in the mind of God. The mind is a spiritual faculty, the brain, on the other hand, is a physical organ. Often we confuse the two. The mind and consciousness can exist without the brain, but not the other way around.

Visualization works precisely because everything that exists on the physical reality is somehow a result of what has been previously conceived by a mind or consciousness. Nothing happens without it.

You make a distinction between "discernment" (intention) as a spiritual process, and "thinking" (visualization) as a mental process. In point of fact, both have been shown to be products of mental processes but involving different hemispheres of the brain. It was the biologist Roger Sperry who scientifically proved that verbal thinking (e.g. logic, quantitative, serial, etc.) takes place primarily in the left hemisphere of the brain; whereas nonverbal thinking (e.g. intuition, visualization, imagination) primarily takes place in the right hemispheres, although in practice both sides are involved.

Dr. Sperry made this epochal discovery while working on serious epileptic patients whose *corpus callosum* (a portion of the brain that connects the left and right neo-cortex) he had cut. Intuition, discernment, concrete thinking, imagination and visualization all take place primarily in the right hemisphere of the brain. They are not a spiritual process, but still part of the mental functioning.

I agree completely with you that "only through a soul identification, not an ego identification, can one transcend the egoistic tendencies which go with the physical-mental yearnings of mortal man."

I also agree with you that it is "the (left brain) mental act that produces the aggressive impulses which has resulted in conflicts and wars throughout human history." We need, therefore, to develop the use of both hemispheres of the brain to keep our mental balance. And, hopefully, have a glimpse of the spiritual world.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza 1, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

14 ways to love yourself on Valentine's Day

From page E1

fore the rising sun, hold a balloon in your right hand (balloon colors pink/red for love, green for money/prosperity, blue or white for healing). Write your deepest wish on the balloon. Just as the sun rises, call your wish out loud as you release the balloon. Then surrender to the will of heaven with faith and thanksgiving.

6. Stop worrying. If worry rules your day, then you have given in to fear. Fear diminishes your courage. Practice faith by releasing your fears. Trust in the Almighty.

7. Pamper yourself. You deserve it. Treat yourself to a day in the spa. All of us need to de-stress and revive our tired bodies and minds. If you prefer to have a spa experience at home, try one of my favorite face and body polishing treats.

Oatmeal rub: 2 c raw oatmeal, ¼ c corn or vegetable oil for the body, 1 tsp olive oil (for dry skin) or corn oil (for oily skin).

Sooth skin bath: 3-5 c milk (canned), 1 tubful of warm water.

While inside the bathroom (and not in the shower to avoid oatmeal from clogging the drain), mix the ingredients together. Stand on top of a big towel. Separate the preparation for the face and the body.

Begin rubbing the mixture from the feet toward the neck. Rub firmly enough to make your skin tingle. Do the same for the face with gentle strokes. Be careful not to scratch your face. Wipe your face and body clean with a towel. Step into your bathtub if you have one and immerse yourself in very warm milk-water. Ten minutes should do the trick.

8. Learn to say no. Overextending yourself for others can deplete you of your energies. Stop being enslaved by other people's demands on you lest you lose your own self-esteem.

9. Learn to say yes to yourself. Years of self-denial can and will break your spirit. Liberate yourself.

10. Release your passions. There are creative energies inside you just waiting for self-expression. Whether that manifests as the most romantic night of your life or an obra maestra, allow your passions to unfold.

11. Lighten up! Laugh more than you cry. Hold rather than lose your temper. Having a pleasant disposition crowned by good humor makes you such pleasant company.

12. Change your lifestyle. Drop your destructive habits like excessive smoking, wining and dining, too much sugar, salt and fat in your diet, too many chemicals in your bloodstream, like drugs and medicines. Junk your coach potato life for an active one. Exercise.

13. Adopt the positive thought diet. The second you begin forming a negative thought like "It's going to rain," "Surely, there will be traffic," "I will flunk the exam or job interview or simply "I can't do it," stop yourself by reversing the thought.

14. Tell yourself how much you love you, what a wonderful creature of God you are and how you deserve the bounty of heaven's blessings. If you have never done it before, do it now. Praise yourself.

Finally, brimming with love, give your heart to your beloved, the one who truly deserves you. The one who will love you unconditionally. And if you still have not found your soul mate, here's a prayer borrowed from my friend Jimmy Licauco.

Soul mate prayer: "Lord, help me to find him/her who I can love and serve and who can love and serve me."

Love and light!

E-mail the author at lifestyle @inquirer.com.ph

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

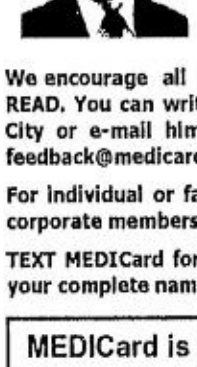
I was referred to an accredited specialist during my previous consultation. Within a few days, I am due for a follow up consultation with him. Do I have to meet with the Medical Coordinator again before seeing the specialist?

For follow up consultations with the accredited referred specialist, you do not necessarily need to seek the services of the MEDICard Medical Coordinator. However, you will still need to visit the coordinator's office for the issuance of the required referral slip by their secretaries.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Carmelita Belmonte–Cuyugan, known simply to her patients as *"Doktora Cuyugan"* has been practicing her profession for over 45 years now. Her experience and training in her field has made her one of the most valued members of our medical service providers. Based in Makati Medical Center, Dr. Cuyugan specializes in medicine for children--Pediatrics. Among the list of her credentials is her fellowship degree to the Philippine Pediatric Society and her membership to the Perinatal Association of the Philippines. Visit Dr. Cuyugan for your consultation needs. Drop by her clinic at room 205, from Mondays to Saturdays, 2 to 5 PM.

Dr. Larcie Viray-Principe joined MEDICard's medical service team in 1999. She is a Pediatrician based in Perpetual Help Medical Center in Las Piñas City. Dr. Principe finished Medicine at FEU-NRMF and took her residency training for her specialization from PHMC. Doc Larcie, as she is frequently called by close acquaintances, is married to Dr. Leo Principe, a MEDICard accredited surgeon based in Las Piñas Medical Center, with whom she has four wonderful children. She is fond of signing and dancing and spends most of her free time doing this. You may avail of her services during her clinic hours, from Mondays to Saturdays, 10 AM to 12 noon and then again from 2 PM to 5 in the afternoon.



For more than 10 years now, OB-Gynecologist **Dr. Cesar C. Ubaldo** has been addressing the health needs of MEDICard members. Dr. Ubaldo, finished Medicine at the University of the Philippines and earned his residency training for his specialization at UP-PGH In 1987, he chose to subspecialize in Infertility at the Southern California Fertility Institute. Today, Doc Cesar is a member of the board of examiners for the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society and a member of the Philippine College of Surgeons. Drop by his clinic at Perpetual Help Medical Center in Biñan, Laguna for your consultation needs from Mondays to Saturday, 10 AM to 2 in the afternoon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. ***Log on to www.medicardphils.com***

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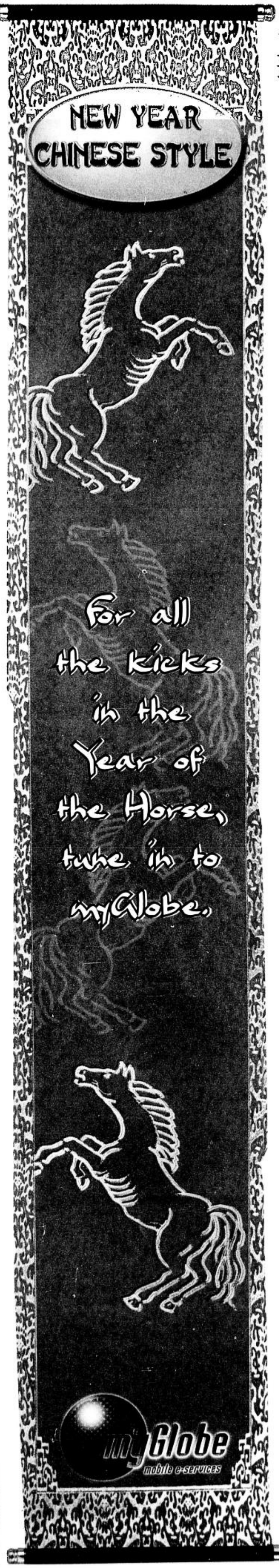


Murmurs of a broken heart

BEFORE DR. Fabio Enrique Posas, FACC and chair of Cardiovascular Research at St. Luke's Heart Institute, talks about prevention of heart disease, he prefers to talk about awareness—that you can be healthier for a longer time if you know how to take care of your heart.

Step one in that direction is being able to recognize the risk factors and symptoms of heart disease. A common symptom is angina pectoris or heart pain, which is usually described as exertional heaviness or squeezing chest discomforts. The feeling may spread down one or both arms and also cause choking sensation and shortness of breath. It may occur during exercise, emotional upsets (or even from getting "too happy"), climbing the stairs—anything that increases the workload of the heart. Some individuals may wake up during the night short of breath. The trouble is that people usually never attaches this shortness of breath to heart disease, says Posas, a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology with expertise on clinical cardiology, cardiac catherization and cardiac and peripheral vascular interventions.

Another symptom is irregular heartbeat or palpitations. The heart may beat too fast, be irregular or skip beats. Some people may lose consciousness or even die. It will be recalled that US Vice President Dick Cheney had life-threatening abnormal rhythms of the heart and had to be implanted with a special pacemaker designed to assist his heartbeat and prevent life-threatening rhythm disturbances.

Then there is the heart attack, which manifests as a severe squeezing or even splitting of the chest, usually lasting some 30 minutes.

> You may not be able to choose your ancestor, but you can modify your risk for cardiovascular problems by changing your lifestyle

You feel numbness or tingling down the left arm, shortness of breath, cold and clammy sweat, perhaps loss of consciousness.

Recognition of these symptoms is critical, says Dr. Posas, because the shorter the time from the onset of these symptoms to the time you get medical aid, the greater your chance of survival and of minimizing damage to the heart. He cautions that the muscle that gets damaged never recovers or regenerates and the pumping function of the heart may be significantly impaired.

Step two, therefore, is seeking medical treatment. From your history and the subsequent use of certain diagnostic procedures, your doctor will be able to determine whether you have a problem, its severity and more importantly, device optimal ways to treat it.

You may have to undergo electrocardiograms, cardiac ultra sound, stress tests and in certain cases, coronary angiography which is basically inserting long catheters and taking pictures of the heart and the arteries which feed blood to it. "These are procedures being done today on a daily basis by Filipino physicians in centers like St. Luke's," explains Dr. Posas. "It's not rocket science anymore. These technologies have been around for a long time and do not entail any onerous invasive risk. Most importantly, these procedures allow doctors to tailor specific therapy for the patient which should improve his or her chance of living longer and having useful lives."

The heart bypass is being performed daily and safely by well-trained Filipino surgeons. It prolongs life in patients with severe disease, says Dr. Posas. It returns individuals to productivity and assures a good quality of life while minimizing the number of medicines taken in. More recently, surgeons have successfully performed off pump or beating heart bypass and even bypasses with smaller incisions which hold the prospect or eventually lowering the cost of surgery and speeding recovery.

Dr. Posas recommends that we learn to understand the risk factors that play a role in the genesis of heart disease. These are: genetics, diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, age (heart disease is degenerative), smoking (even second-hand smoking), male sex and sedentary lifestyle.

You may not be able to choose your ancestor, but you can modify your risk by changing your lifestyle. Your doctor may assist you by providing you with standard formulas that will allow you to calculate your risk more effectively. Dr. Posas has a last word of advice: "Understanding cardiac risk and recognitions of symptoms may save your life and that of your loved ones."

Soothing Valentine treat

THE SEASON of romance is best celebrated with pampering at one of the country's leading spa centers, the Bali Spa, Las Piñas City. Couples who will avail of the "Bali-tine Promo" throughout February will be treated to a special package made up of an aromatherapy massage and a facial treatment—in one room. After a soothing treatment, glasses of fresh fruit juice will also be served at the lounge. Plus, a special long-stem rose will be given to all female guests.

The aromatherapy massage uses Bali Spa's essential oils such as clove, patchouli, lavender, sandalwood, vetiver, ylang-ylang, nutmeg and peppermint. There are two modes of facial treatments—carrot or biocollagen.

Bali Spa's other products are the south sea and mineral bath, scrubs such as the cinnamon body scrub, the *pandan wangi* scrub and the tea tree oil for foot and leg massages.

The special relaxation treat is available for only P2,500 per couple. Call 800-3816/80 or visit the Bali Spa at 318 Interiors Gallery Building on Alabang-Zapote Road.

Unique gifts in a bottle to spice up Heart's Day

HEALTH EXPRESS recommends three gift ideas in a bottle to spice up your Valentine date.

Power V, a supplement for both men and women who are looking for that zest to their sex life. Power V has ingredients that come from the Yohimbe Tree, known to increase libido levels and stamina, stimulate the body's testosterone levels and for the men, help erectile function. It is combined with Guarana, a shrub-like plant native to Brazil that gives additional energy; Siberian Ginseng, which helps promote physical performance; and Gingko Biloba, which helps maintain good circulation in the extremities.

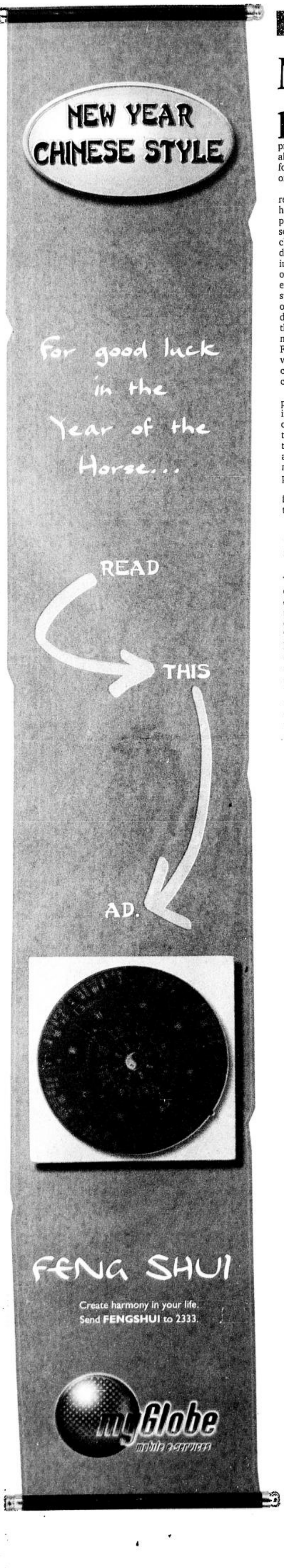
USA Sports Lab's Yohimbe Formula is a breakthrough in natural testosterone release. Studies have shown that Yohimbe Formula may also increase muscle mass, strength and sex drive.

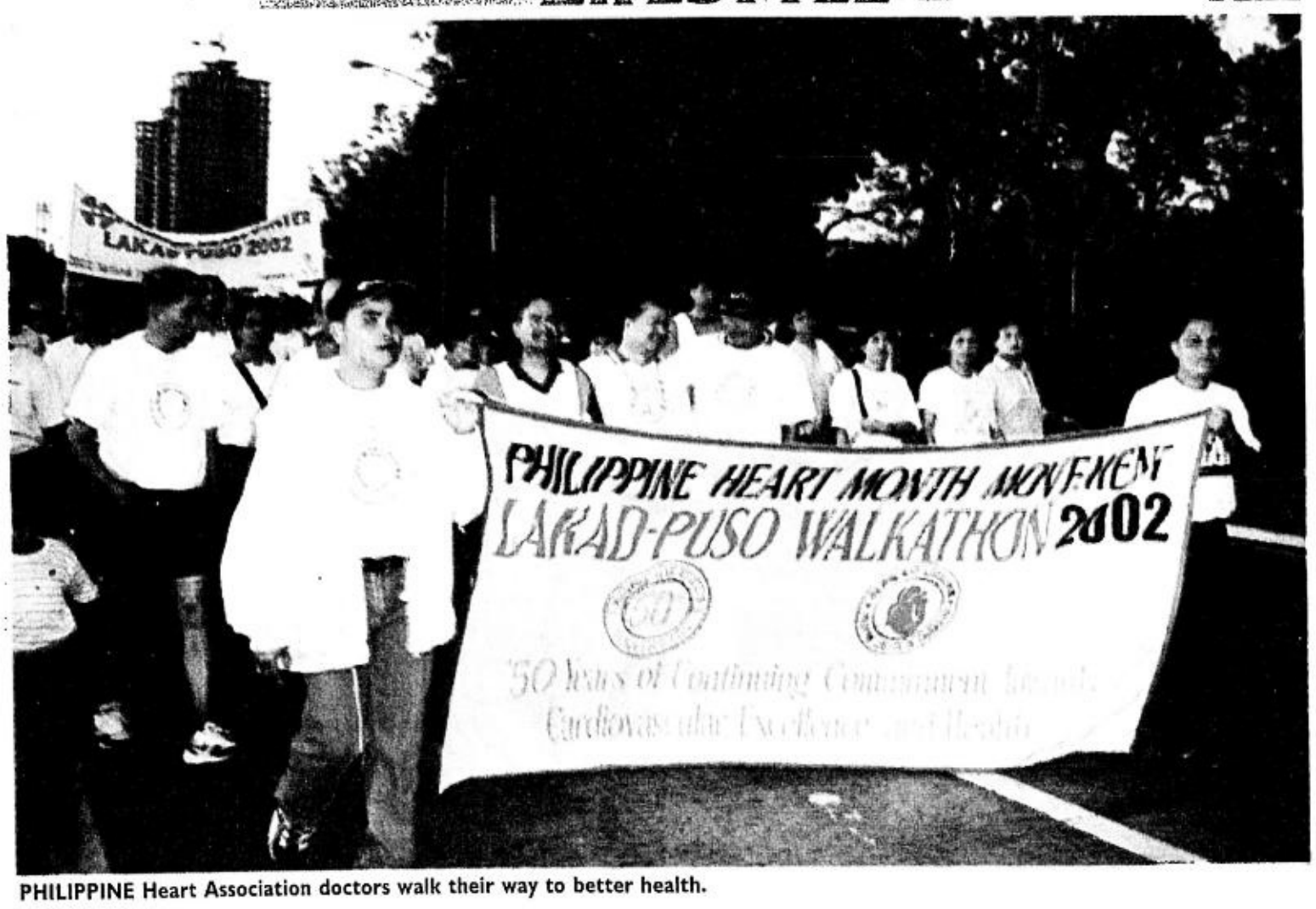
Maximum Male formula by USA Laboratories also contains Yohimbe, the only FDA-approved ingredient for erectile dysfunction. Researches have shown that as men age, various natural abilities tend to decrease at an alarming rate. Maximum Male helps reverse this course through its high potency formulation.

Visit Health Express at Glorietta 3, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Supermarket Bacolod, Robinsons Town Mall in Los Baños, Makati Supermarket at the Alabang Town Center, Tutuban Centermall, Festival Supermall Alabang and SM City Iloilo. Call 892-7978, 840-1855 and 892-9364.

FROM THE HEART

No matter how small the help may seem, community sharing by Shell dealers and employees has been going on for some time. This has prompted the 87-year-old oil company to pool all similar activities under one umbrella and call it "Mula sa Puso ng Shell." In the program, Shell dealer associations and employees set aside a portion of their time to prepare food, select giveaways, raise funds for games and loot bags, and more importantly, be there to distribute the goodies themselves and share the day. Photo shows Cagayan de Oro and Bukidnon Shell dealers with deaf-mute students recommended by the Cagayan de Oro Archdiocesan Religious. The dealers raised P8,000 in transportation money for students who had no funds to commute to and from school.





PHILIPPINE Heart Association doctors walk their way to better health.

Aiming for the heart

'Lakad Puso,' now on its 30th year, highlights walking as a cheap, simple yet effective exercise, especially for cardiovascular problems

By Constantino C. Tejero

TAKE care of your heart, enjoins the Philippine Heart Association—not the metaphorical one but the very same that causes the No. 1 killer disease in the country.

To kick off the observance of Heart Month, the PHA—together with the Department of Health, the Philippine Heart Center and the Heart Foundation of the Philippines—spearheaded activities at the Quezon City Memorial Circle last Feb. 3, starting with the annual Lakad Puso marathon.

Festivities were held simultaneously in Metro Manila, Naga City, Cebu and Mindanao. Participants were hospitals, pharmaceutical firms, government agencies, NGOs.

For this year, Dr. Annette P. Borromeo, PHA vice president and chair of the Heart Month celebration, estimates the number of Lakad Puso participants in Metro Manila at 5,000, with 23 pharmaceutical companies and nine hospitals.

"This is to promote awareness of a healthy lifestyle and a healthy heart through walking," says Borromeo, a cardiologist at PHC.

Walking is the cheapest and simplest form of physical exercise but quite a big help in encouraging a less sedentary lifestyle, thus helping reduce the incidence of heart problems in the country.

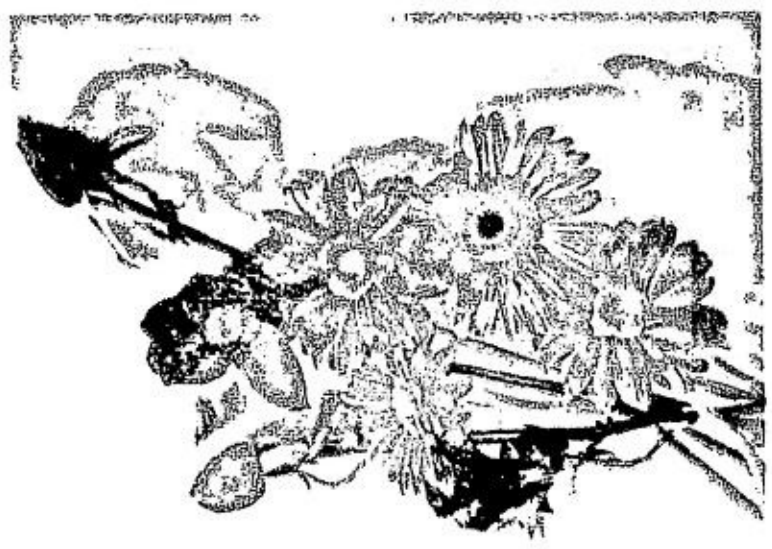
The PHA, composed of 970 cardiologists, is celebrating its 50th anniversary with the theme "50 Years of Continuing Commitment toward Cardiovascular Excellence and Health." It was founded on March 26, 1952. The association has always been at the forefront of the Lakad Puso festivities.

This is the 30th year of the marathon, held every first Sunday of February. The 6½-km fun run started at 6 a.m. from the QCMC and proceeded to the University of the Philippines via the Elliptical Road. By 8 a.m., the runners were back at QCMC, and did 30 minutes of aerobics. This was followed by a sportsfest, participated in mostly by doctors and medical students.

Vibrant colors streaked the greenness of the park: uniforms of white and blue with orange vests; green-yellow-white shirts; yellow vests. And there were red heart-shaped balloons, too.

Eleven tents had been put up around a big central tent with a stage and a white backdrop streaked with the huge sign "Happy Valentine!" and a red, red heart.

The physicians gave free checkup of pulse rate and distributed free medicines for diabetes and high-blood pressure, packed fast-food breakfast, bottles of mineral water, white T-shirts—before they called it a morning.



"I FEEL FOR YOU," watercolor by Chris Mirang, one of the artworks featured in the PHA exhibit at Edsa Shangri-La

In the evening of Feb. 7, the PHA held a symposium titled "Other Concerns of the Heart" at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Guest speakers were pediatric cardiologist Asuncion Abella-Reloza, Education Secretary Raul Roco and Bishop Socrates Villegas, DD.

As PHA vice president for external affairs Ramy S. Diez says of this particular symposium, this is just "one of the long list of activities of the PHA as it mounts a massive trimedia campaign to promote a healthy lifestyle and reduce the incidence of cardiovascular disease."

And, hopefully, the start of the healing of many hearts.

This Valentine season, let the world know how much that special someone means to you by writing that heartfelt love note in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the country.

On February 14, **INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS** will publish personal ads dedicated especially to those you hold dearest to your heart at a discounted rate of **P50** per line or **P180** per column centimeter.

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SAMPLE ADS

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There is a love that only you could give, a smile that only your face can show, a twinkle that can be seen only in your eyes and a life of mine that only you can fulfill.
I LOVE YOU!
always,
Red

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P720 VAT exclusive

Happy Heart's Day Liz! You're God's greatest blessing – Tim

size: 3 lines
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I love you Regin! Loving you is one of the best things I've ever done in my life. Happy Valentine's Day! – Mikaela

size: 4 lines
cost: P200 VAT exclusive

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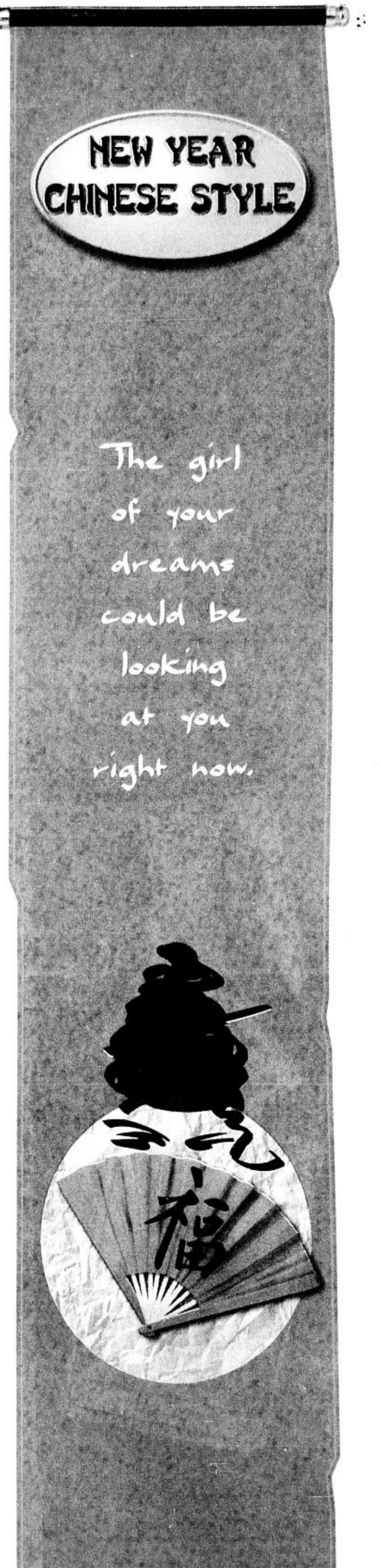


From skin analysis to body treatments, it's all personal

WHERE can women truly concentrate on looking and feeling good?

One place is Radiance Facial & Body Care Center, located on the 2/F Nisa Building, 50 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati. It is exclusive, but not necessarily expensive; small, but has room for regulars.

Each client is given personalized treatments by the center's ighly skilled and well-trained aestheticians.

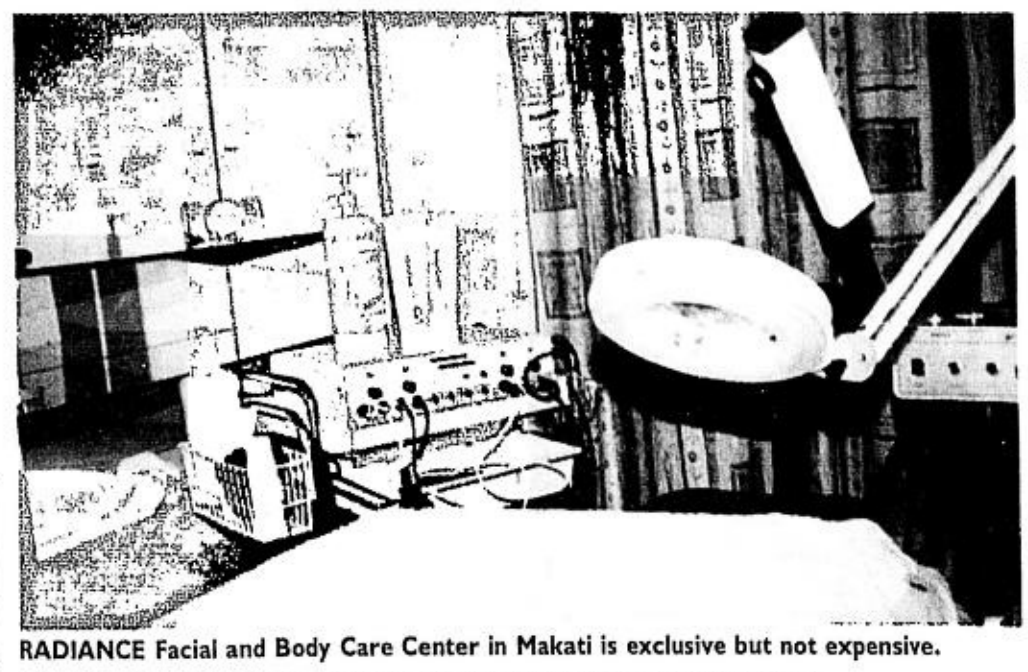
The process begins when the aesthetician does a skin analysis on the client and comes up with a specially designed treatment.

Radiance uses the world-famous Dr. Lauranne products from Italy. These products contain the finest fruit extracts that have been tested and proven safe at the University of Pavia. Dr. Lauranne products are environment-friendly and have been proven effective around the world including the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and Hong Kong.

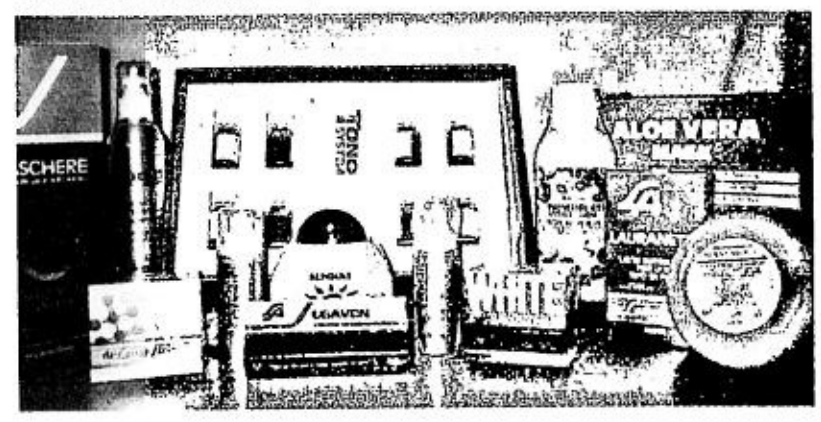
Among the treatments offered at Radiance are facials for different skin types, hand and foot care, Swedish Aroma Oil and Slimming and Firming massages, body treatments like waxing and bleaching and special face and body treatments.

Treatments include Eternite Antirouge, a soothing treatment for sensitive/allergic skin that reduces redness and ruddiness; Moonlife Effeto Lifting, a six-treatment series that works like a facelift except that it is nonsurgical and non-intrusive, and Cellupro, which gets rid of cellulite and unwanted inches in just eight weeks.

Call 895-3943.



RADIANCE Facial and Body Care Center in Makati is exclusive but not expensive.



DR. Lauranne products from Italy contain fruit extracts that have been proven safe and effective.

How healthy is your heart? Find out for free

WEEKLY DOSAGE

HEALTHWAY Medical Clinics-Binondo will offer free diagnostic tests to help people know their possible risks for common heart diseases. On Feb. 13, patients can avail of free cholesterol screening from 8-9:30 a.m. and free electrocardiogram test from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Visit Healthway Medical Clinics at 2/F Paramount Building, Quintin Paredes Street, Binondo, Manila. Call Jenny Ng at 241-2246/3005/2066.

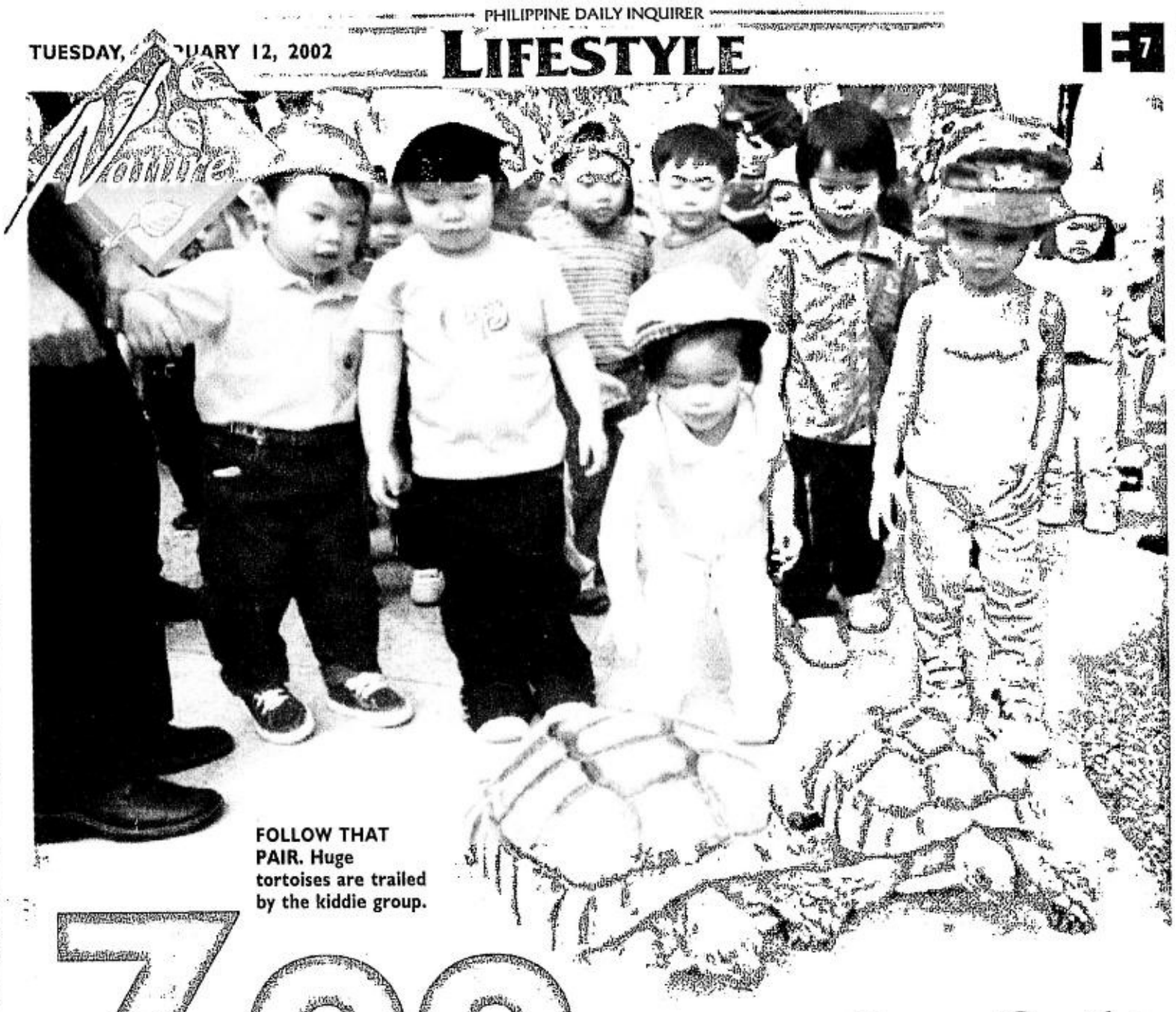
AIA-HINOKI, maker of beauty and personal hygiene products, has just launched the Mitsuko Ivoire Collection. Presented in elegantly designed mint green packaging, it is a complete line of lip makeup, eye colors, blusher, pressed powder, roll-on deodorant, cologne spray and roll-on perfume. The Mitsuko Ivoire Collection and other Aia-Hinoki products were formulated to suit different skin types and colors. Call 726-8587/1070.

RAVEN Hair Shine Hair Glossing Spray, formulated by Rogemson Co., provides immediate solution to your messy hair woes: instant shine and luster to all hair types. It also helps prevent split ends through its protective and smooth coating on every hair strand. Available in 60- and 120-ml sizes in leading supermarkets nationwide.

JOHN P. Alonte (extreme left) managing director of Adidas Phils. Inc., owner of the Salomon brand, and brand manager Eric de Mesa (extreme right) are shown with inline skaters Noel Cosinas, Tong Yangco and Benjie Estanislao. Salomon outfitted the skaters in the Asian X-Games competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Jan. 25-Feb. 3.

TV personality and model Marc Nelson knows that the right gear is important when going outdoors, so he prefers Timberland. Timberland is available at The Travel Club outlets at SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center and Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Also available at Bratpack boutiques at Robinsons Ermita, Robinsons Galleria, SM Southmall and SM City Annex, Rustan's Tower, Royal Sporting House (Robinsons Ermita, Filinvest and Rockwell), Olympic World Alabang and Hall of Fame Filinvest.

PRO Star Sports Philippines Inc. brings NBA action closer to Pinoy fans through its original NBA apparel and accessories available in over 90 retail outlets nationwide. There's the MVP casual wear collection and the Activewear Collection, which features the Raptors, Lakers and Blazers. NBA Shop is located at the Olympic Gold Store in Robinsons Galleria, Olympic Village, Robinsons Ermita, Olympic World Alabang Town Center, Toby's Arena in Glorietta, Royal Sporting House, Planet Sports and SM outlets.



FOLLOW THAT PAIR. Huge tortoises are trailed by the kiddie group.

Zoo wonderful!

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Jim Guiao

Children learn best from nature, and at Kinder Zoo they can interact with animals they've read and heard about

IN A WORLD that is fraught with much strife, two images are guaranteed to bring smiles to the weary soul—children and animals. These two subjects never fail to bring joy, albeit momentarily, when their antics, their innocence and their wonder are captured on film. No exception were the kids, mostly 2½ and 3½ year olds, from the Philippine Children's Montessori Center when they visited the Kinder Zoo, which is located inside the Manila Zoo.

The children were a delight to watch as they interacted with the animals at the Kinder Zoo but what was even more delightful was the place itself, which provides, perhaps even the most jaded of souls, some moments of joy watching the animals there freely roam about.

The zoo is clean, well maintained and well staffed. If one arrives early in the day, the weather (at least in January) is quite pleasant and conducive for walking. The Kinder Zoo staff is accommodating and knowledgeable about their "wards."

The first exhibit from the entrance is that of butterflies who fly freely, flitting among the trees and shrubs. The experience of standing there with a hundred or so butterflies flying about was all at once peaceful and magical. The children stood momentarily in awe, as they tried in vain to touch the little winged creatures.

Moving a little further, we were met by Trisha the ostrich, who towered above the little ones who came to visit her that day. The Kinder Zoo staff encouraged the kids to touch Trisha and even ride on her but the little ones were only brave enough to do the former.

The wonderful thing about this zoo is that the animals are placed in open pens to enable visitors to interact with them—carry them, feed them or ride them. Since they are all tame and friendly, parents and teachers who come to the zoo have nothing to fear. Occasionally, there will be a naughty one who will try to peck but visitors are told about this ahead of time.

Teacher Bettina Manalastas said that interacting with animals is really the best way to learn about them. "The children had been 'prepped' about farm animals in their individual classes as early as two weeks ago. This visit is actually the highlight of their lesson," she said. As in any new experience, especially with children, Manalastas explained it was best to prepare them for the new sights, sounds, smells, etc. No wonder then that the 20-plus children from PMC, with the exception of one or two, never raised a fuss as they toured the zoo, carrying merrily along like little adults.

Fascinated

The kids were fascinated most by the animals that they were quite familiar with from storybooks or their own pets at home. The two huge tortoises and rabbits were such winners with the children, who spent quite a great deal of time petting them. Tisoy, the albino snake, was not so popular, especially when they saw him wrap around Teacher Eva. Shades of the Jungle Book perhaps as the sight made them freeze in their tiny tracks. Roaming around the zoo that day was a lovely, regal peacock. The children waited for her to show off her elegant plumes. However, she seemed bored that day and was content to sit on the sidewalk after the children had trailed her around the zoo for quite a bit. Crossing the hanging bridge was an exciting experience for the 3-year-olds as they held one another's tiny hand trying to keep their balance. The younger ones were guided by the steady hands of their teachers. Upon descending the hanging log bridge, there was a huge koi (Japanes carp) pond where brightly colored koi swam around. A little further down was a group of flamingos that the children watched in fascination while they kept their balance.

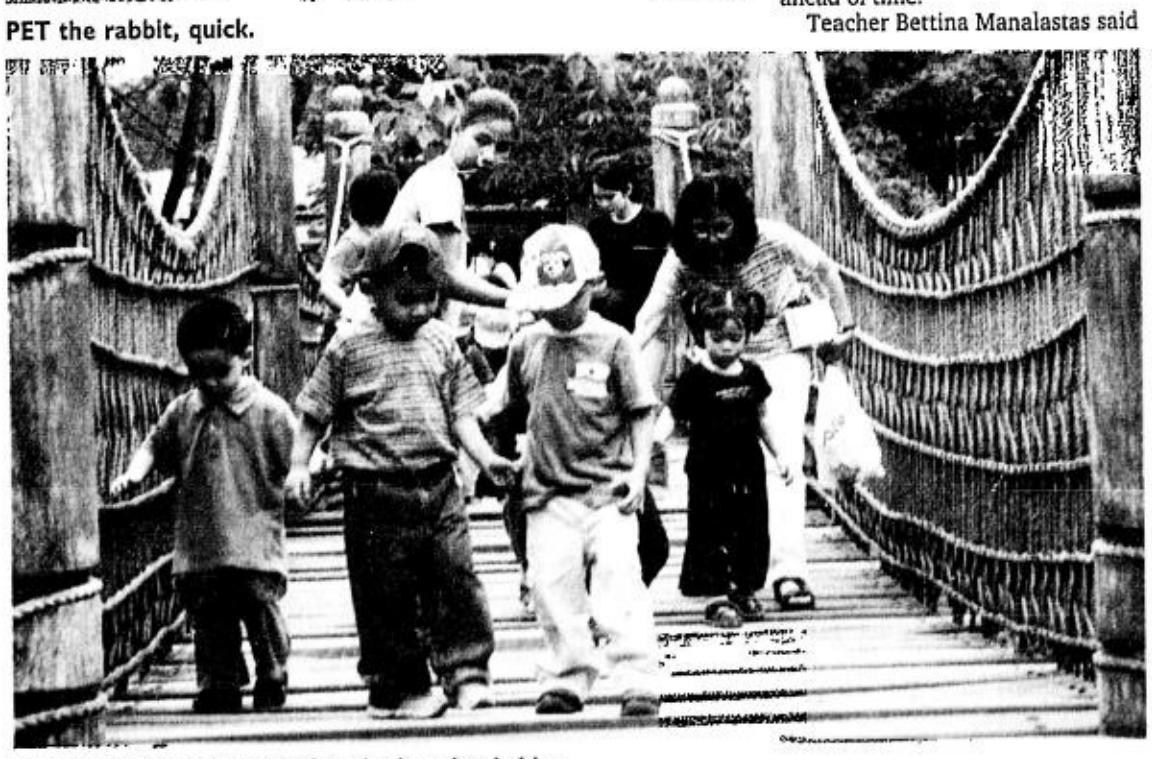
After about an hour or so at the zoo, the little ones were all tired and hungry and ready to go home. Surprisingly, none of the children were grumpy or cranky. They looked tired but happy, too, for having spent that time with their animal friends. For this fun learning experience, thanks are in order to Virgie Ramos and her friends at the Kinder Zoo Inc. for putting in their time and money in developing this little animal haven in the city. Now, adults and children alike can come to a place where they can rediscover the joys of childhood and frolic with little animal friends.

The Kinder Zoo is open daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entrance fee is P40 for children/adults; free admission for kids below 3 years old. Group discounts are also offered. The Kinder Zoo is located inside the Manila Zoo so there is an additional P6/adult and P4/child entrance fee charged by Manila Zoo.

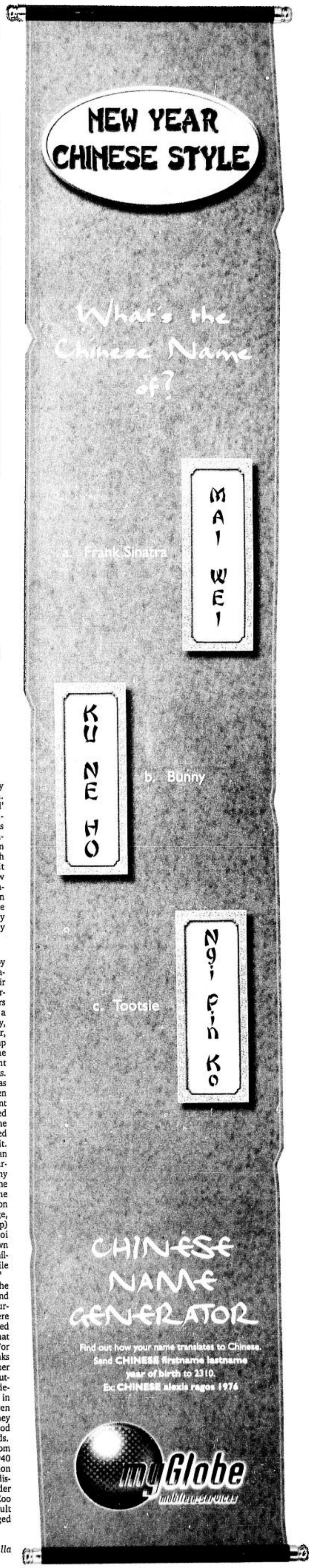
E-mail the author at cbguballa @inquirer.com.ph

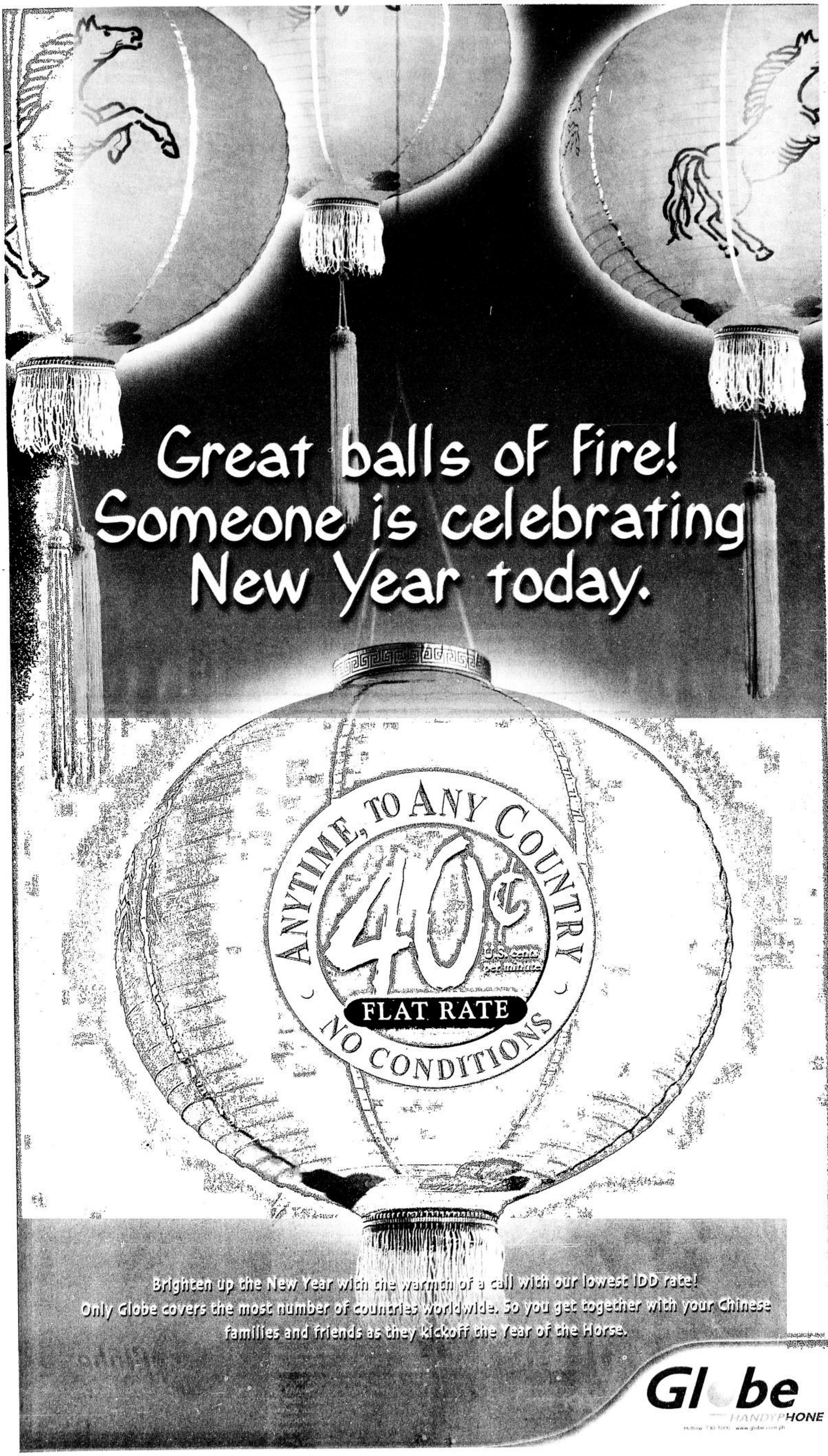
O is for Ostrich.

PET the rabbit, quick.



CAREFUL NOW. Negotiating the hanging bridge

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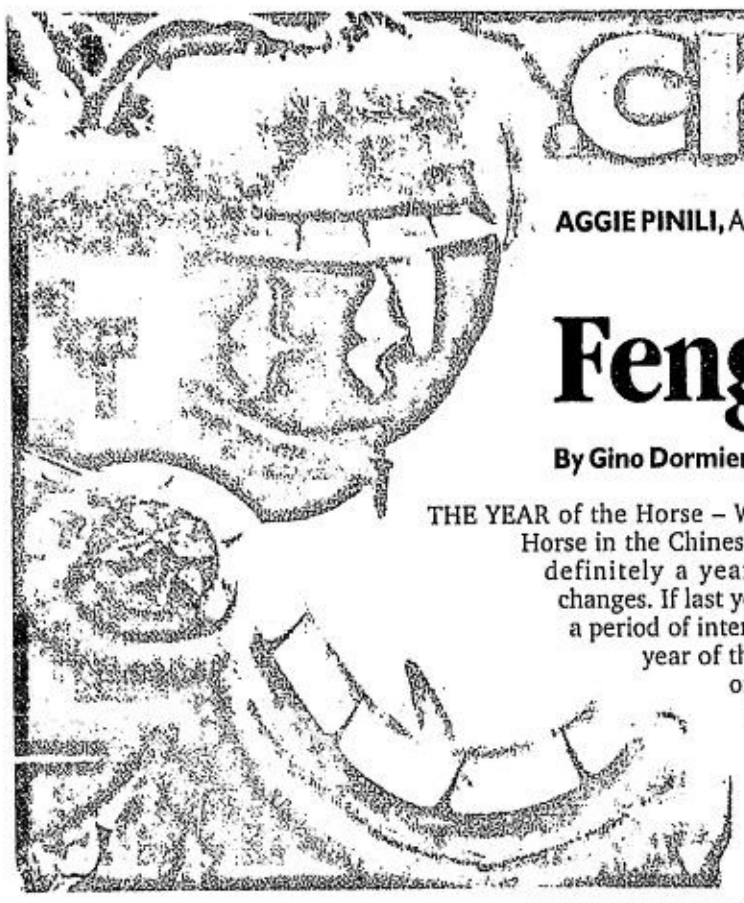
Chinese New Year

AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager sprojects@inquirer.com.ph **Aries Espinosa,** Editor



Feng shui master predicts big changes

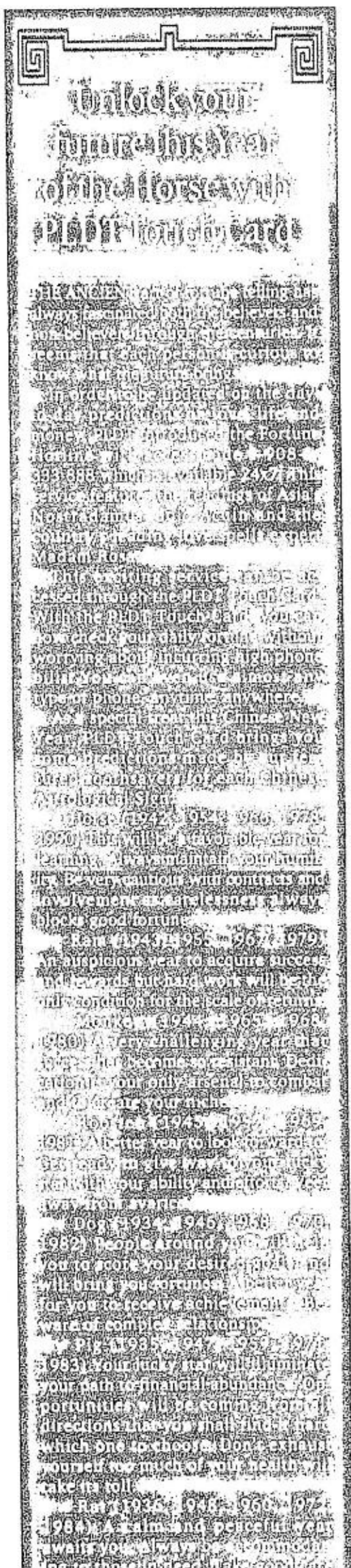
By Gino Dormiendo

THE YEAR of the Horse – Water Horse or Black Horse in the Chinese Lunar calendar -- is definitely a year of the Big C – for changes. If last year's Metal Snake was a period of intensity and tenacity, the year of the Water Horse is one of high spirit and activity, with imminent changes soon to take place in both the world and in our country as well. According to professor Charlie Chao, eminent *feng shui* master, astrologer and geomancer, the changes in the Water Horse Year, which begins today, will either be for good or bad since the water horse is a fickle and aggressive animal, capable of changing direction without hint or explanation. Chao adds that the horse has fire elements, which are not compatible with the water element, which can, in turn, destroy the fire element and thus form a destructive cycle.

The Philippine situation, unlike some countries in the world, will be at a standstill; neither worse not better than the previous years. The Mindanao problem will not yet be solved completely, and criminally will not disappear either. But in order to curb criminality, the government will need to resort to the "iron hand" of the law and implement necessary changes in the judiciary system. If it fails to do so, the peace and order situation will deteriorate. Foreign investors will not feel free or safe to invest in the country.

The country's economic condition, says Chao, will still be difficult. Many local manufacturers will be forced to shut down because of the continuing deluge of cheap imported goods. Thorough reforms in the country's import laws and customs system must be enacted, otherwise the ranks of the unemployed will continue to swell.

BIG/F5



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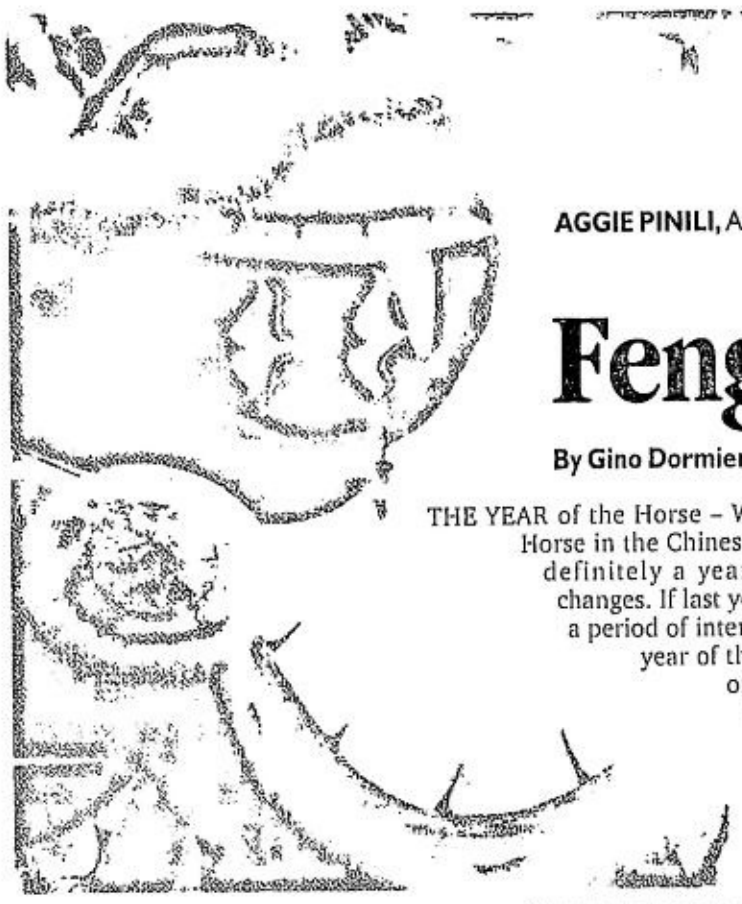

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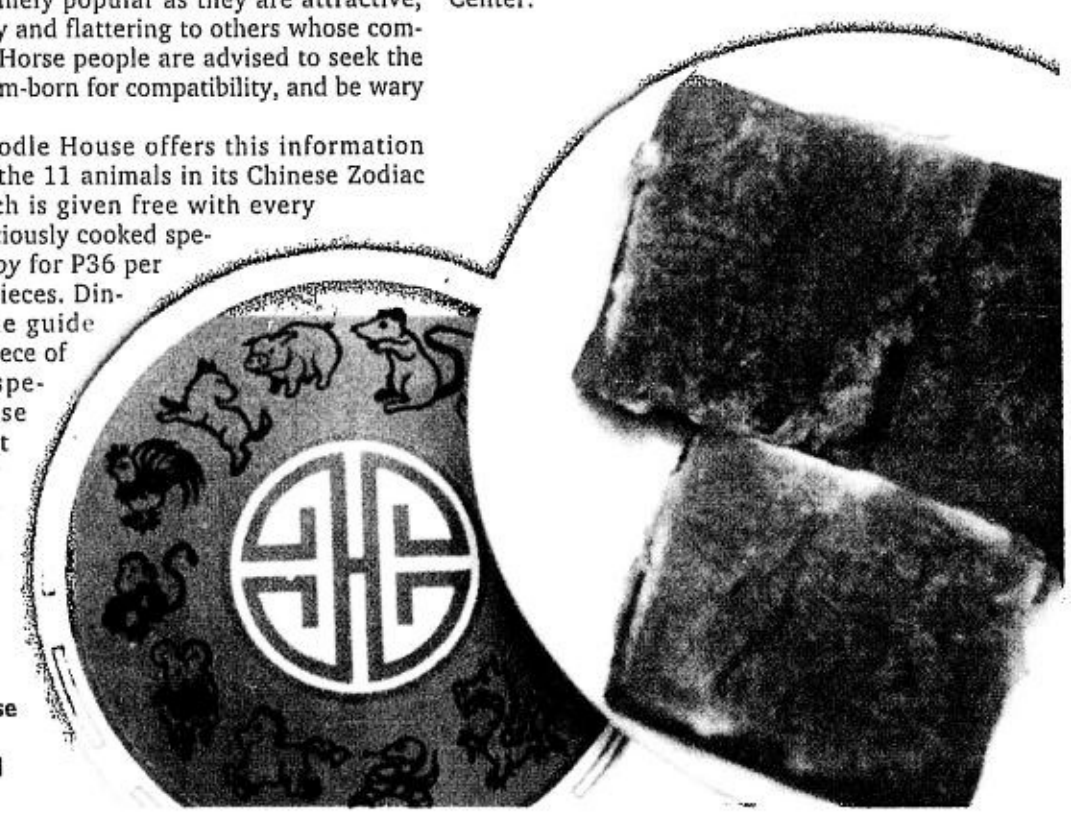
Free Chinese zodiac guide from Luk Yuen

IT'S THE Year of the Horse as the Chinese New Year ushers in on Feb. 12. According to traditional ancient Chinese legend, ages ago Buddha summoned all of the animals and honored those 12 who came, naming a year for them. Each animal in turn gave its characteristics to people born in its year.

Hence, those people born under the horse sign (1906, 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 2002) are described as extremely popular as they are attractive, cheerful, friendly and flattering to others whose company they seek. Horse people are advised to seek the tiger, dog and ram-born for compatibility, and be wary of the rat.

Luk Yuen Noodle House offers this information plus the rest of the 11 animals in its Chinese Zodiac Guide mat which is given free with every order of its deliciously cooked special Chinese *tikoy* for P36 per order of three pieces. Diners will find the guide an interesting piece of information, specially for those who are not aware of their Chinese zodiac animal sign. The very handy and informative mat is available at all Luk Yuen outlets for February, and is good until supply lasts.

Luk Yuen Noodle House, where "there's more to hot noodles", has six outlets – Greenbelt Mall 1 and Glorietta 2 in Ayala Center, Makati, Cash & Carry (Filmore Street, near Buendia Avenue, Makati) SM Megamall (Basement, Building B), Greenhills Shopping Center and Makati Supermart Alabang Town Center.



LUK Yuen says 'tikoy very much' with its free Chinese zodiac guide mat order of its cooked special tikoy

Exclusively Yours.

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Equitable Advantage Plus

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Program is valid from February 12, 2002 until August 31, 2003. Equitable cardholders have until December 1, 2003 to redeem reward items.

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Equitable Card Center: 203 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229 Philippines
(632) 867-7977 (Metro Manila) 1-800-1-888-3264 (Domestic Toll-Free)
Website: www.equitablecard.com E-mail: E-Advantage@equitablecard.com

Equitable CARD

Valentine Treat from Equitable Card!

Aside from being able to redeem premium items using Equitable Card takes away the hassle of going to the bank to make much needed cash for a special Valentine's gift, premiums claimed for family dining during Chinese New Year with these Equitable cards would perfectly well for any occasion. Valentine's Day for two at Cafe [illegible] (Hotel [illegible]) [illegible]

Equitable Card Center, the Philippines' most extensive credit card network, honored in more than 1 million establishments in over 220 countries. It also has the broadest network of payment centers nationwide offering real time transaction to cardholders. Equitable [illegible] through Equitable Visa, Equitable MasterCard, Equitable JCB and Equitable American Express. Even purchases through the Deferred Pay [illegible]

Valentine's special at the Red Crab

Wonderful [illegible] seafood and red drinks [illegible] Japan [illegible] the Red Crab and [illegible] with you [illegible] sample [illegible] Valentine [illegible] promo [illegible] 790+

For [illegible] with [illegible] Olio Pizza [illegible] Mixed Greens with Vinaigrette [illegible] Alabang Town Center Branch at 021-848-1752 [illegible] 790+

Motorola welcomes Chinese New Year

Along with the Chinese New Year, Motorola is embarking on a more aggressive marketing campaign for its product line for cellular phones

MOTOROLA Communications Philippines Inc., leading provider of wireless communications products and solutions, semiconductor technology, advanced electronic equipment and services, sponsored the successful and spectacular Chinese New Year celebration of Mandarin Oriental Hotel last Jan. 11.

Motorola's personal communication's sector welcomed the "Year of the Water Horse" with grand festivities that include a foot parade along the "prosperity route" at 11:30 p.m., followed by the Paai-Shan ceremony by feng shui master Joseph Chau Kam Shing and a lion dance at the stroke of midnight. Ellen T. Suarez, Motorola's marketing manager for consumer relations group-South Asia, said this is their way of saying "Thank You" to their valued customers especially those in the Chinese community. "We want to celebrate Chinese New Year with our valued and prospective clients and welcome the "Year of the Water Horse" with a big bang.

Along with the Chinese New Year, Motorola is embarking on a more aggressive marketing campaign for its product line for cellular phones. It has launched and is now available nationwide the first cellular phone model T190, which has the longest text messages of up to 765 characters in one go and can send up to 10 friends at one time. Suarez said that none amongst the phones available in the market today offers the same features, and best of all, at a very affordable price. Suarez adds that the company will soon launch its new tri-band model, V66, which will blend high-fashion and GPRS capabilities for stylish trendsetters.

Motorola ties-up with Mandarin Oriental Hotel Manila in celebrating the Chinese New Year, which can be traced way back to the legend of the monster beast called Nian (meaning "year" in modern Chinese), that was said to have terrorized people in ancient times. The beast was eventually conquered by an old man, who directed the people to put up red paper decorations on their windows and doors every end of the year to make sure the Nian does not come back.

It was seven years ago when Mandarin Oriental first celebrated Chinese New Year outside of Binondo, in accordance to a feng shui master's directive to bring good *chi* to the new year. Motorola in the Philippines has been sponsoring this event for two years now.

MOTOROLA Communications Philippines Inc. recently sponsored the successful Chinese New Year celebration of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel with people who gathered to commemorate the festivity. Shown is Joseph Chau Kam Shing, renowned feng shui expert, and Ellen Suarez, Motorola's marketing manager for consumer solutions group – South Asia, experiencing the innovative features of the new Motorola V.66, a stylish tri-band mobile solution with advanced GPRS capabilities. With its new intuitive user interface, Motorola V.66 is set to change the lifestyle of people on the go. Motorola is the world's leading provider of wireless communications products and solutions, semiconductors technology, advanced electronic equipment and services.

MOTOROLA marketing manager for consumer solutions group-South Asia Ellen Suarez (center) with feng shui expert Master Joseph Chau Kam Shing (left) and Helmut Gaisberger, Mandarin Oriental general manager, are shown during the recent partnership agreement between Motorola and Mandarin Oriental to celebrate the Chinese New Year festivities.

NOW, LARGER THAN LIFE.

Grander images, greater stories and bigger personalities in the broadsheet format.

Feng shui master predicts big changes . . .

From page F1

On the other hand, businesses engaged in telecommunications and transportation, as well as electronics and computer industries, will flourish. So, too, will the food and refreshments business. But the stock market, real estate and construction will still be hard up. The Water Horse Year will not be auspicious for agriculture, aquaculture, fish farming and feeds business. Neither will the lumber, printing, textile and garments industries take off this year.

The local movie industry will experience another slump in 2002, perhaps worse than the previous years. This is due to the widespread piracy and stiff competition from foreign films. More importantly, this condition has been brought about by the poor quality of our screenplays as compared to the foreign ones.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties, as signified in the I-Ching theory (literally, "Book on Changes") it is only change that can overcome the obstacles and indeed the crucial factor in the people's survival. In a year of political unrest, more people will take to the streets. It is advisable to urge our nation's officials to take measures toward better and proactive governance. The economy will be lively and upswing toward the end of the Horse Year.

Chao also suggests that all churches and religious groups set aside any day of the first week of every month for prayer. This, he says will go a long way in helping our people overcome this period of difficulties.

For 2002, lucky personalities in general are those under the signs of Tiger, Snake, Rooster and Pig. Moderately lucky are those born in Rabbit, Goat, Monkey, Dog, Dragon, and Ox. With some exceptions, generally unlucky are Rat and Horse signs. Their fortunes will of course depend on a host of factors, since there will be exceptions in all cases. This will depend on the time and place of one's birth; a one-minute difference in the time of one's birth can definitely change one's destiny.

The lucky *feng shui* orientations are east and west directions. Thus, it is recommended that new buildings and houses follow their construction or renovation modes, especially the main gates or main doors as well as tomb or altar placements, according to this orientation.

The lucky fashion and design colors of the year are blue, gray, black, violet, pink and red. (Again, this will depend on the person's birth date and time of birth).

For the Rat person, the Water Horse is in clash with your horoscope. Unlike last year, where were many opportunities, this is not the right time to pursue new projects and unfamiliar investments. Avoid quarrelling with people for this can lead to lawsuits, and shun all forms of gambling, as these will cause you more losses. Avoid attending funerals and visiting sick persons. But you can engage in charitable activities to enhance your good karma. Be patient, for everything will proceed smoothly.

For the Ox person, stay humble and avoid arguing with people in order to prevent trouble. Be careful in selecting friends. Beware of envious persons who will take advantage of you. Businessmen have a good chance in their new projects and fortunes are expected to go smoothly provided you take necessary precautionary measures.

For the Tiger person, there will be two lucky stars beside you. Business and wealth will prosper. However, you must refrain from overindulging in tiresome activities, as well as in seasonal affairs in love relations as well as in money. Strive harder in your financial projects but do not offer yourself as a guarantor in any loan or debt. Be humble and low key, and you are bound to fulfill your dreams.

For the Rabbit person, this year is especially auspicious for female rabbits. Male rabbits, however, should take extra precaution. Unexpected occurrences can derail your plans. Be extra careful in making decisions, and everything – career, business and money matters – will be smooth and solid.

The Dragon person's star is not so bright, even though your wealth is expected to increase. Your parents and you might fall ill, hence physical examination is advised. Take necessary precautions during travel as well as in driving vehicles. Avoid visiting sick persons and attending funerals. To enhance good karma, participate in charity projects.

The Snake person's star is strong and brightest this year, especially for the male snakes. You will prosper in your fortune as well as in your career and social standing. But look out for burglars in order to prevent them from stealing your belongings. Refrain from family feuds and you will prove even luckier.

The Horse person's star is weak so you must take extra precaution due to sudden changes and problems. You might become sickly yourself. Avoid visiting sick people and those attending funerals. Don't be greedy in your business or project, for this can devastate your finances. Be careful of envious people, too.

The Goat person's star is strong – fortune and wealth will come. You will have plenty of happy occasions. But be careful of thieves and take extra precaution on long-distance travel. Avoid stressful activities and take good care of your health by putting more time for relaxation.

For the Monkey person, there are two unlucky stars beside you. Take no risks with envious people surrounding you who are bound to take advantage of you. Be careful in driving vehicles especially at night. Going abroad is timely but go either east south or west south. You are admonished to limit yourself by traveling by sea. Be patient and do strive harder to accomplish your work.

For the Rooster person, your star shines bright. Helpful persons will be around to support and assist you in your plans. Be humble, be patient and avoid unnecessary quarrels. Also, beware of sweet talk lest all your efforts will be wasted.

BIG F7

馬 馬

Kung Hei Fat Choy!

Celebrate the Year of the Horse with a galloping spectacle of Chinese treats at

SM SUPERMALLS

February 2002

Wu Shu

Traditional Lion / Dragon Dance

Chinese Cooking Demos

NORTH EDSA ▲ MEGAMALL ▲ SOUTHMALL ▲ CENTERPOINT ▲ CITY BACOOR ▲ CITY MANILA ▲ CITY FAIRVIEW ▲ CITY CEBU ▲ CITY ILOILO ▲ CITY PAMPANGA ▲ SUPERCENTER SUCAT ▲ CITY DAVAO

The last time the horse passed by . . .

BOY, how time flies. Or, in this case, how it gallops.

As we should know by now, after chewing on all that *tikoy* our elders lovingly prepared, that the Chinese New Year cycles every 12 years. Why? each of the 12 animals that signify the lunar year gets the spotlight—tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, pig, rat, and the ox.

So, in 2001 the snake slithered by. In 2000 the dragon danced. And in 2003, the goat takes its turn. But today the horse jumps out of the starting gate and will be the focus of everyone's eye until it finishes where it started.

So, the question today shouldn't be what the year ahead will bring us, but if history would repeat itself. Will we see the same winners and losers? Will the fortunes of some be the misfortunes of others? It would be interesting to look back at the country—and at the world—the last time the horse galloped by, which was exactly between Jan. 31, 1990 and Feb. 14, 1991.

And with this, perhaps, we would know the best bet for the year ahead.

January-February 1990

3—General Manuel Noriega surrenders in Panama

22—Yugoslav Communists end 45-year monopoly of power

29—Dismissed Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, one of the top architects of the failed December coup, is captured by military intelligence agents in Sanville Subdivision, Barangay Culiat, Tandang Sora in Quezon City.

30—Cordillera votes on autonomy issue

30—26 Filipino seamen drown after their Cypriot-registered cargo vessel sinks in the North Atlantic

Feb 1—All domestic flights paralyzed when air traffic controllers stage strike, in protest of a standardization law which allegedly demotes them by a grade. An estimated 12,000 passengers are stranded

7—Soviet Communists relinquish sole power.

8—Intensity 6 quake rocks Cebu, 22 hurt

11—South Africa frees Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for over 27 years.

13—Military court convicts former Lt. Col. Reynaldo Cabauatan of several coup attempts in 1989 against then President Cory Aquino, and sentences him to 12 years at hard labor.

17—Mindanao autonomous region elects officials

20—The Supreme Court temporarily halts the sale of prime real estate in Tokyo's Roppongi district owned by the Philippine government.

26—Military releases report that Communist guerillas kill 11 soldiers, including a Constabulary captain, in two separate gunbattles over the weekend in Northern Philippines.

27—Opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile is detained after the government files charges of rebellion with murder against him in connection with the 9-day December coup.

28—Imelda Marcos suffers a double blow when a US Court judge refuses to throw out her racketeering indictment and a co-defendant pleads guilty and agrees to cooperate with prosecutors.

March

4—Suspended Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo and his armed followers shoot dead Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, chief of the military's Civil Relations Service, when government troops storm a six-story downtown hotel in Cagayan province which the rebels had seized.

6—The Supreme Court, by a vote of 10-4 with one abstention, orders the release of Enrile on a P100,000 bail after deliberating on the charges of rebellion complexed with murder and frustrated murder filed against him.

17—Suspected drug lord Jose "Don Pepe" Oyson shot dead allegedly while trying to grab the gun of one of the police officers who had "invited" him for questioning.

19—Fugitive Governor Aguinaldo finally dismissed as governor of Cagayan province after the government finds him guilty of disloyalty to the republic.

April

5—Agrarian Reform Secretary Florencio Abad resigns from the cabinet a day after the administration-controlled Commission on Appointments bypasses his nomination as DAR chief.

8—Hooded renegade soldiers storm Manila City Hall before dawn and free putschist leader Billy Biboy and four others being held on charges of murder, car theft and illegal possession of firearms.

8—Lea Salonga wins the Laurence Olivier Award for best actress in a musical for her role as Kim in "Miss Saigon".

21—Constabulary agents capture Caridad Magpantay-Pascual, allegedly a member of the Politburo and Central Committee of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines.

23—Power supply to 302 major buildings in Metro Manila cut, idling some 300,000 workers.

25—Violeta Barrios de Chamorro inaugurated as Nicaraguan president. Hubble Space Telescope launched.

26—Six passengers burn to death, 16 injured when a chartered DC-3 plane catches fire after crashing at Fort Bonifacio

May

3—President Aquino orders an indefinite implementation of a three-point energy-saving program, including a revival of the Daylight Saving Time throughout the country starting May 21.

8—For the second time in her trial on fraud and racketeering charges, Imelda Marcos breaks into tears, prompting Federal Judge John Keenan to call a recess.

11—An explosion kills seven people on board a Philippine Airlines 737 bound for Iloilo and triggers a fire that destroys the aircraft.

14—Philippine negotiators open exploratory talks on the future if American bases by telling the United States to keep its "word as a nation" and fully settle its financial obligations under an existing accord.

18—A twin-engine commuter plane crashes into a house and explodes upon impact shortly after take off, killing instantly all 21 people aboard and a family of four asleep inside a house.

June

1—Plot to assassinate Aquino bared. US-Soviet summit reaches accord on armaments.

12—Cory launches Kabisig—a new national political movement for poverty alleviation. Representatives later unanimously reject to join the movement.

18—Rep. Nicanor de Guzman of Nueva Ecija gets 17-20 years for gun smuggling.

July

3—Imelda Marcos acquitted by a New York jury of racketeering charges filed by US Justice Department.

6—Western Alliance ends cold war and proposes joint action with Soviet Union and Eastern Europe

16—Earthquake hits Central Luzon, Northern Luzon and Metro Manila.

20—US Appeals Court overturns Oliver North's Iran-Contra conviction.

August

2—Iraq invades Kuwait

7—Rep. Nicanor de Guzman resigns from Congress before colleagues could vote on proposals for his expulsion

14—Filipina dressmaker, six stewardesses say they were raped by Iraqi soldiers.

24—Tropical depression Heling kills 5, floods Metro Manila.

September

5—Senator Orlando Mercado links Senator Heherson Alvarez to illegal logging.

6—Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus apologizes for his remark "if rape is inevitable, relax and enjoy it."

8—Thousands brave the rains to join peace rally held at Our Lady of the Edsa Shrine

9—Civilian supporters of Gringo Honasan raid AFP armory and escapes with high-powered rifles and machine guns.

16—Gen. Alfredo Lim, tasked to investigate rigging of sweepstakes draws, wins the P5-million jackpot.

17—Second round of RP-US bases talks.

23—11th Asian Games start (Philippines wins only one gold—in boxing)

28—Sandiganbayan finds 16 military men guilty of Ninoy Aquino assassination, but acquits 20 others for lack of evidence.

October

3—The Inquirer sweeps J. Ongpin awards for investigative journalism. East and West Germany reunited

4—Rebel soldiers led by renegade Army Lt. Col. Alexander Noble overruns 3 military camps and virtually takes control of Cagayan de Oro and Butuan cities. Noble yields 2 days later.

22—Labor leader Oscar Lazaro killed by four gunmen

25—four die, 17 vehicles burned in a welga ng bayan seeking wage hike

November

8—US Republicans set back in midterm elections

17—Gorbachev assumes emergency powers

19—Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon and his family survives shots from 90 mm recoilless rifle fired at his home.

21—Leaders of 34 nations in Europe and North America proclaim a united Europe.

22—Margaret Thatcher resigns as British prime minister. John Major succeeds her on Nov. 28

December

3—Voluntary odd-even scheme ignored by motorists

4—Local government secretary Luis Santos and Cabanatuan City mayor Honorato Perez linked to slay of vice mayor Eduardo Joson III.

9—Lech Walesa wins Poland's runoff presidential elections

16—Cory accepts resignation of trade secretary Jose Concepcion, Jr.

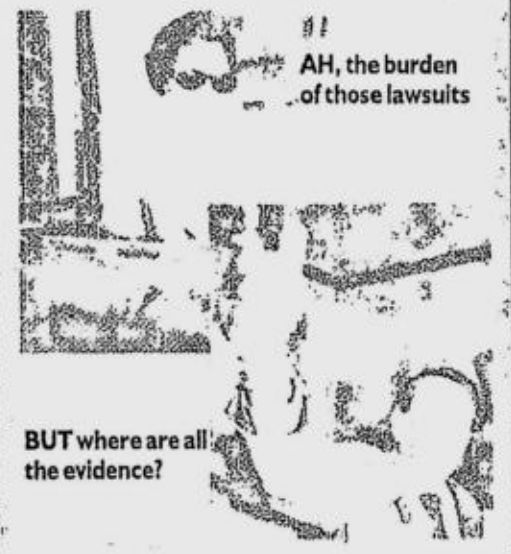
17—Haiti elects leftist priest as president in first democratic election

19—81 soldiers convicted for Aug. 28, 1987 coup

26—Elvegia Mendoza becomes first woman brigadier general in the Armed Forces

(Historical dateline compiled by Maricar Tolosa and Armin Adina, Inquirer research)

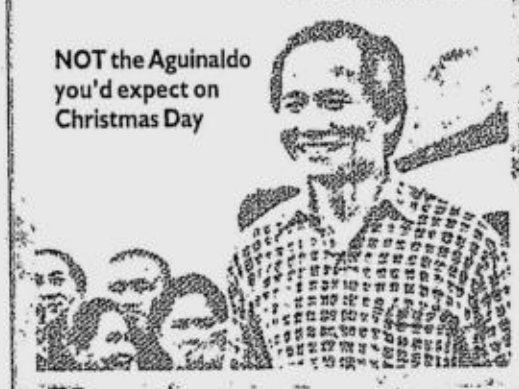
THE PEACEMAKERS at work on Edsa Shrine



AH, the burden of those lawsuits

BUT where are all the evidence?

ABOUT time for a female brigadier general in the AFP, sir, er ma'am!



NOT the Aguinaldo you'd expect on Christmas Day

HYATT reduced to rubble

SADDAM may take on Bush Jr. this time

THE FACE and voice of talented Filipinos

In 1990, the World Wide Web debuts, popularizes the Internet

January 1991

15—United States and allies at war with Iraq.

—Leah Salonga bags Kim role in Broadway

February

—Sugar Ray Leonard retires after losing fight with Terry Norris in Madison Square Garden.

Your horoscope for the year of the horse

Horse: 1906, 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002

THIS YEAR should generally be a successful one with little trouble. People born in the Year of the Horse will be busy at work this year and their dedication will pay off. You are likely to be promoted and given a pay rise in recognition of your efforts, and those working in the financial sector can expect to see great rewards. Horses who manage their own businesses will see their interests expand, and work will take many horses on trips far from home.

Horses tend to fall head over heels in love with someone who turns out to be completely unsuitable, and 2002 will be no different.

Ram: 1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991

This will be a prosperous year for people born in the Year of the Ram. Your career will go well and your work will generate a steady income. Rams will find praise from their superiors comes more easily, and those who work for themselves will succeed in their chosen field. Rams will be rewarded for their intelligence and creativity, but this is not a time for a rapid turnaround in your fortunes, so don't expect instant riches and avoid potentially risky investments.

The Year of the Horse is a good time for single rams.

Monkey: 1908, 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992

The Year of the Horse will not be a good one for many monkeys. While they may succeed at work and earn extra money, there is trouble on the home front. You can be a charming and energetic partner but often struggle to imagine yourself in the other person's shoes. This means you easily find yourself causing unintended harm through your thoughtlessness and sly behaviour.

Monkeys often enter the jewelry industry, which will prosper this year under the influence of the Horse. Writers and others who work with paper or in publications will also be particularly successful. For monkeys in the engineering field, however, there is likely to be little advancement, as industries related to metal and heavy machinery are in conflict with the Year of the Horse.

Rooster: 1909, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993

This is an excellent year for those born in the Year of the Rooster, both at work and in romance. You will find that the right people come along at the right time, either with advice and business opportunities, or with the perfect blend of qualities to be your ideal partner in life.

The Year of the Horse is a great time for roosters to apply for a more senior job or expand their business into new areas. You can afford to be aggressive in pursuing your ambitions, and are likely to make more money in 2002 than you in past years.

Roosters tend to attract many potential mates, and many will find their perfect match this year, most likely someone you were involved with previously and passed by. The Year of the Horse is a great time for roosters to marry, but not remarry!

Dog: 1910, 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994

People born in the Year of the Dog are in for an incredible year. Work will go smoothly, your love life will blossom, and you are unlikely to suffer major illnesses. Many dogs will find they make lots of money in 2002 through hard work and canny investments. If you work in the property market or are thinking of buying a new home, the influences of the horse will be particularly beneficial to you. Your resourcefulness will pay off at work this year, and you will win praise from your colleagues and probably a promotion or pay rise. If you run your own business, now is the time to expand, branch out into other areas and make any tough decisions that you may have been worrying about.

Keep a lid on that temper and bite your tongue sometimes - you yearn for stability in your relationships and this is best achieved by taking time to listen to the other person.

HOROSCOPE/F8

Big, bold . . .

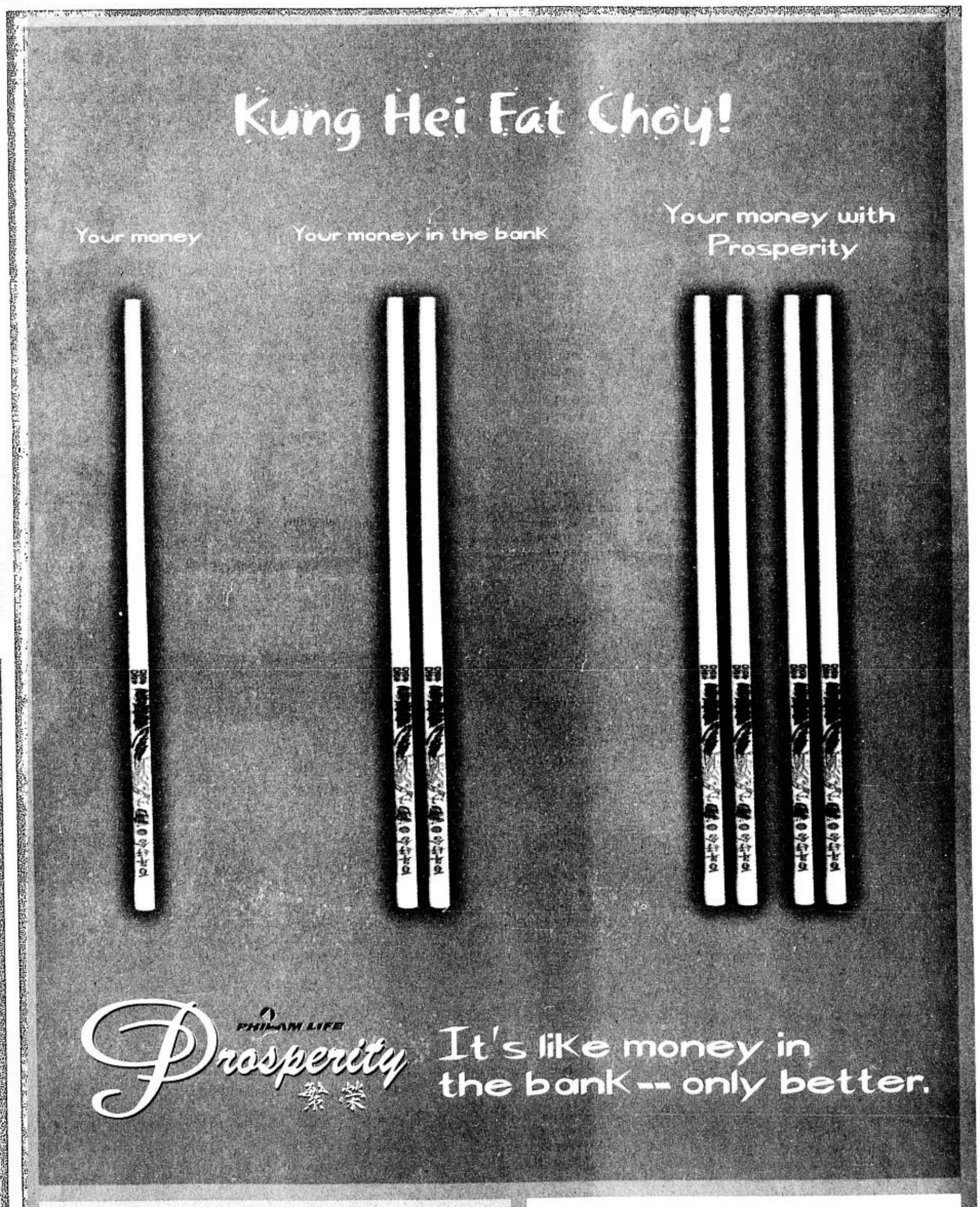
From page F5

For the Dog person, there is one unlucky star beside you. Be careful of unscrupulous persons from friends and villains alike out to double cross you. Be careful in making decision. Refrain from arguing with others. Pay more attention to the young people in your home.

For the Pig person, two lucky stars surround you this year. Everything, career and professionwise, will go smoothly and you can seek new opportunities. You will encounter easy money but try not to be too aggressive, otherwise effort will be wasted. For your safety and that of your family, proper hygiene and food sanitation are needed at home. Do more charitable work to enhance good karma.

There, you have the 12 animal birth signs in the Chinese horoscope: an ancient system made up of five small cycles of 12 years. It would be wise to heed the advice of sages like Charlie Chao in making great decisions regarding family, profession, burial, relocation and marriage. Like the horse, be spirited, be quick and efficient, as you gallop through the lunar year with your own zodiac sign.

Kung hei fat choi!



Prosperity sees adversity as opportunity

On the Chinese New Year of the Black Horse, while predictions abound about the forthcoming misfortunes that the year of the Black Horse may bring, Philamlife chooses to focus on the good and see adversities not as hindrances but as opportunities.

Philamlife recognizes your need to stabilize and multiply your assets and secure your family's future. That is why we have developed Prosperity, a unique life insurance plan that will provide the following benefits: guaranteed maturity cash fund, annual cash returns, guaranteed 20-year insurance coverage. Prosperity will give you the amount of your coverage after 20 years in lump sum cash. Prosperity also gives you additional yearly income from the 11th year until the 20th year of your investment period. The cash fund provided by prosperity may be used as funds for your children's education, as capital for business or as an asset for your retirement. Aside from providing you with financial security, Prosperity also gives you 20-year protection or coverage for you and your family's peace of mind.

Every moment, Philamlife strives to live up to its promise of providing you and your family with financial security and peace of mind.

The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife) has been the premier life insurance organization in the Philippines for over 50 years. Founded by Filipinos, Philamlife has been leading the nation's life industry with a 20-percent share of total premium and more than one million policyholders. With the most extensive network of more than 200 offices throughout the Philippines, over 8,000 life agents and 400 employee-trained agents, the most competent, most professional and most progressive life insurance company in the country, Philamlife is the leading life insurance company in the Philippines.

Philamlife is also the international partner of the country's most reputable insurance companies. Philamlife is the largest underwriter of commercial and industrial insurance.

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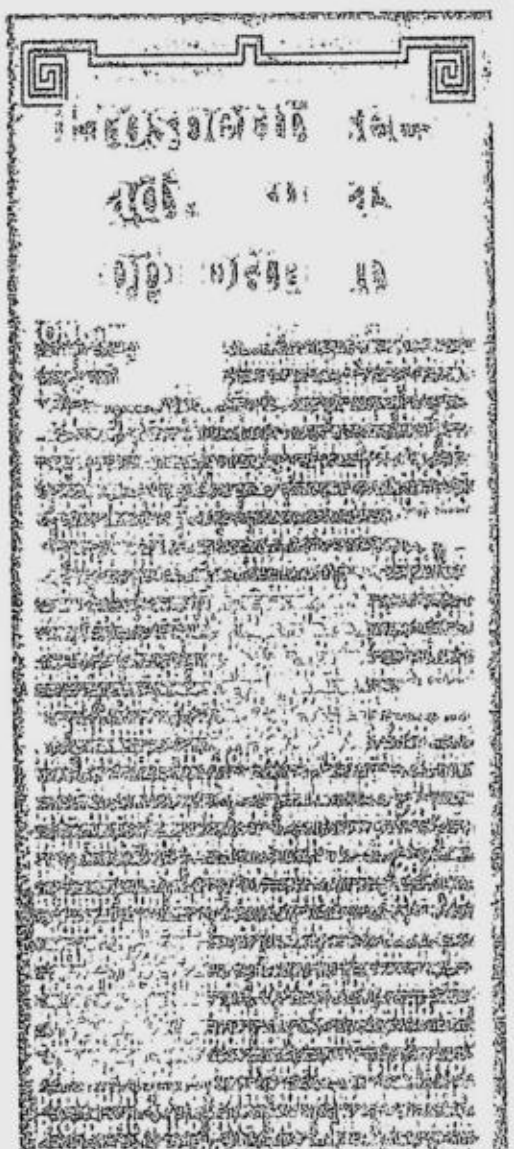
From page F5

For the Dog person, there is one unlucky star beside you. Be careful of unscrupulous persons from friends and villains alike out to double cross you. Be careful in making decision. Refrain from arguing with others. Pay more attention to the young people in your home.

For the Pig person, two lucky stars surround you this year. Everything, career and professionwise, will go smoothly and you can seek new opportunities. You will encounter easy money but try not to be too aggressive, otherwise effort will be wasted. For your safety and that of your family, proper hygiene and food sanitation are needed at home. Do more charitable work to enhance good karma.

There, you have the 12 animal birth signs in the Chinese horoscope: an ancient system made up of five small cycles of 12 years. It would be wise to heed the advice of sages like Charlie Chao in making great decisions regarding family, profession, burial, relocation and marriage. Like the horse, be spirited, be quick and efficient, as you gallop through the lunar year with your own zodiac sign.

Kung hei fat choi!



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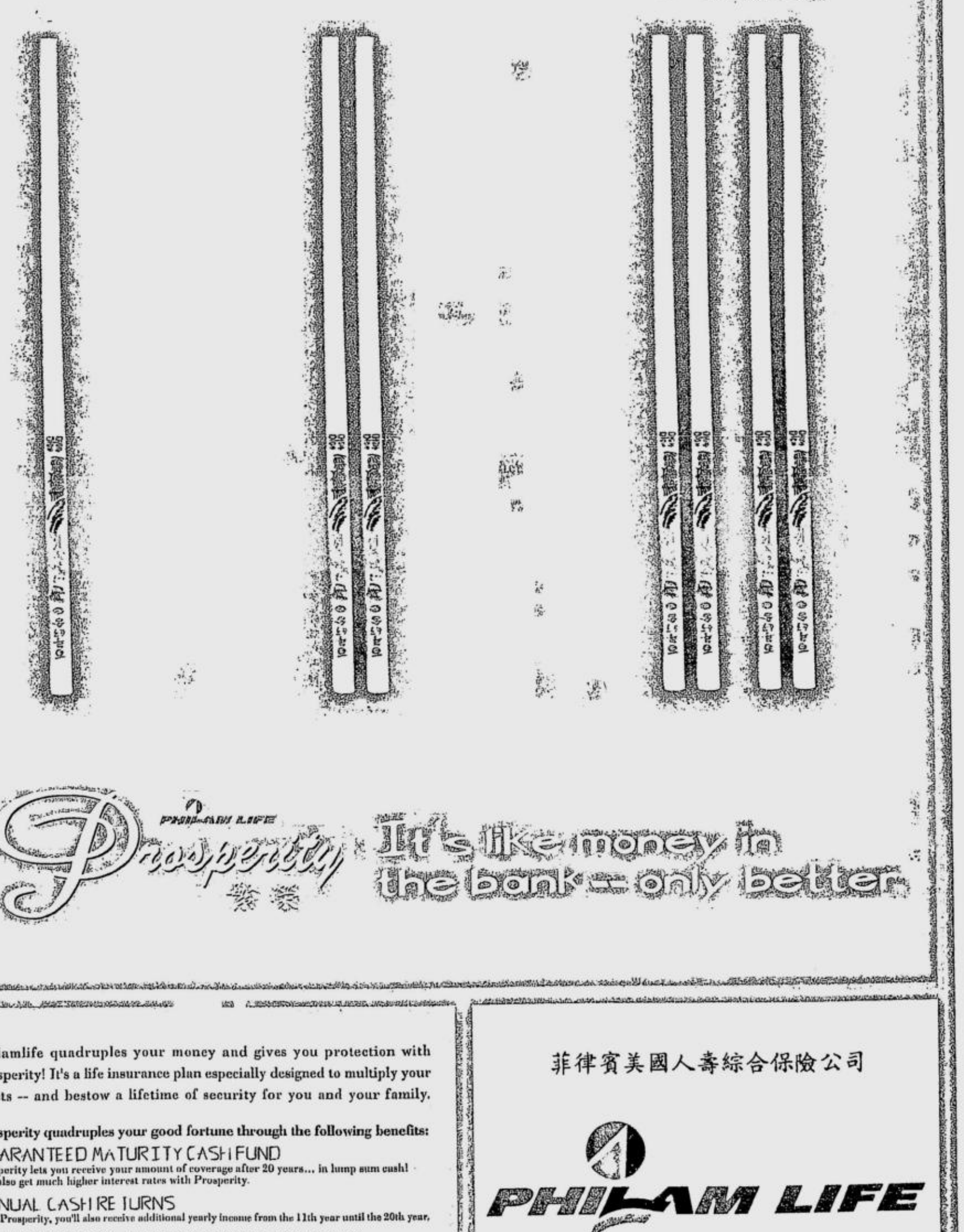

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Your horoscope for the Year of the Horse . . .

From page F7

Pig: 1911, 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995

People born in the Year of the Pig will have a fantastic year under the influence of the horse, and can expect great things at work and at home. Your career will go spectacularly well and you can expect money to come more easily this year, allowing you to indulge in some of the little luxuries you crave. For those glamorous pigs in the entertainment industry, 2002 could be the year they become famous. The business itself is likely to stumble through 2002 because it is a fire industry and clashes with the fiery horse, but pigs could well find their lucky break among the gloom. Pigs often go into farming, and those in the agriculture industry will find that they too are in for a particularly good year.

Rat: 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996

If you were born in the Year of the Rat, you are in for a tough 12 months. Your sign is in conflict with the Year of the Horse, which means you are likely to face a series of conflicts and upheavals, particularly between January and May. This clash with the horse will bring movement and change for many rats, who can expect to switch jobs, move house or go travelling this year. You should try to avoid taking trips directly south, especially in the middle of the year, as the rat-horse conflict will be particularly strong at this time. It is a good idea for rats to carry a pendant bearing the image of a goat this year to try to minimize the ill effects of these influences. Rats are known for their charm and quick wit, but this is unlikely to serve you well in the love stakes this year.

Ox: 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997

This will be a fairly good year for most oxen. You are likely to be lucky in love and at work, but you need to keep a close eye on your health.

This is a good time to be starting a new job or launching your own business. If you stay in your current job, you could well be in for a pay rise or promotion, which is most likely to come in the late summer.

Engineers and metalworkers may be less fortunate because metal clashes with the fiery horse.

The Year of the Horse is likely to bring happiness in matters of the heart. Oxen can expect to find romance and love this year, though some oxen will find themselves pursued by two lovers at the same time and be faced with a difficult decision.

Tiger: 1902, 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998

People born in the Year of the Tiger are in for a prosperous year. Although you will have to work hard and may not see instant rewards for your labor, you will eventually reap the financial benefits of this year's efforts. Your career prospects will be particularly good if you are a civil servant or your work involves international travel, especially if you travel in or to Asia. Your energy and competitive nature will help you in the job market, and you can afford to be a little more aggressive than usual in business this year. Tigers often become writers, actors and musicians, and some will find that this is the year they become famous.

The Year of the Horse is not a particularly strong one for young tigers looking for love. You will make good friends and have fun, but new romances this year are unlikely to lead to long-lasting relationships.

Rabbit: 1903, 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999

People born under the sign of the rabbit are in for a great 2002, especially female rabbits. The Year of the Horse is likely to bring wealth and power to those industrious rabbits having a busy time with plenty of opportunities to make money, especially in international dealings. New businesses will thrive this year if you are determined to make it work, and you may see strong returns from investments made in previous years.

This is generally a good year to get married or have a baby, but some rabbits may find they have problems with their hormones or reproductive systems, and some of their elderly family members may fall ill.

Dragon: 1904, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000

This is not a good year for people born in the Year of the Dragon. Mind every step you take this year, whether in business or your personal life, as people and circumstances are waiting to catch you out. Dragons are resourceful and inventive, but can sometimes be so self-assured that they seem arrogant and aggressive.

In the love stakes, dragons can sometimes find it difficult to form close relationships because they are so independent and self-sufficient. For many dragons, however, this will be the year that they meet the right person, someone on the same wavelength who stimulates their mind. Steer clear of clubs and bars, especially in late spring and summer - your mate is unlikely to be found there!

Snake: 1905, 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001

This is a good year for people born in the Year of the Snake, especially in business and affairs of the heart. Your hard work is likely to earn you praise from the boss and you may well get promoted. For people who run their own businesses, it will be a year of great expansion and prosperity, provided you are meticulous in your planning and are careful about who you share your plans with. Snakes are cunning and at times manipulative, and your discreet manoeuvring will pay dividends in the workplace.

Snakes working in the entertainment industry may not find the going quite so easy this year, however, as this trade relates to fire and the fiery horse is in conflict with it. But those in the jewellery and gem trade can expect 2002 to be particularly prosperous.

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